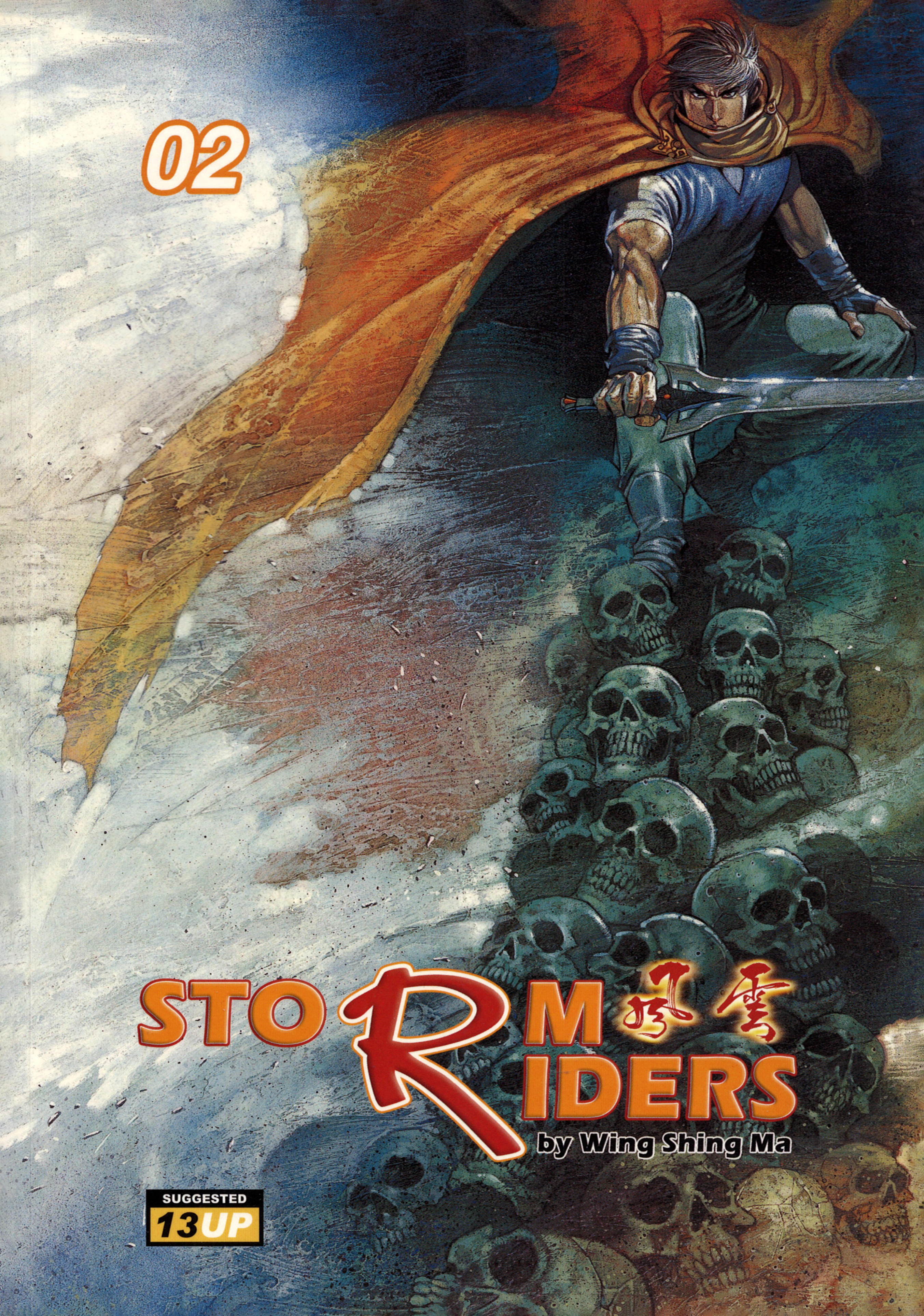


02

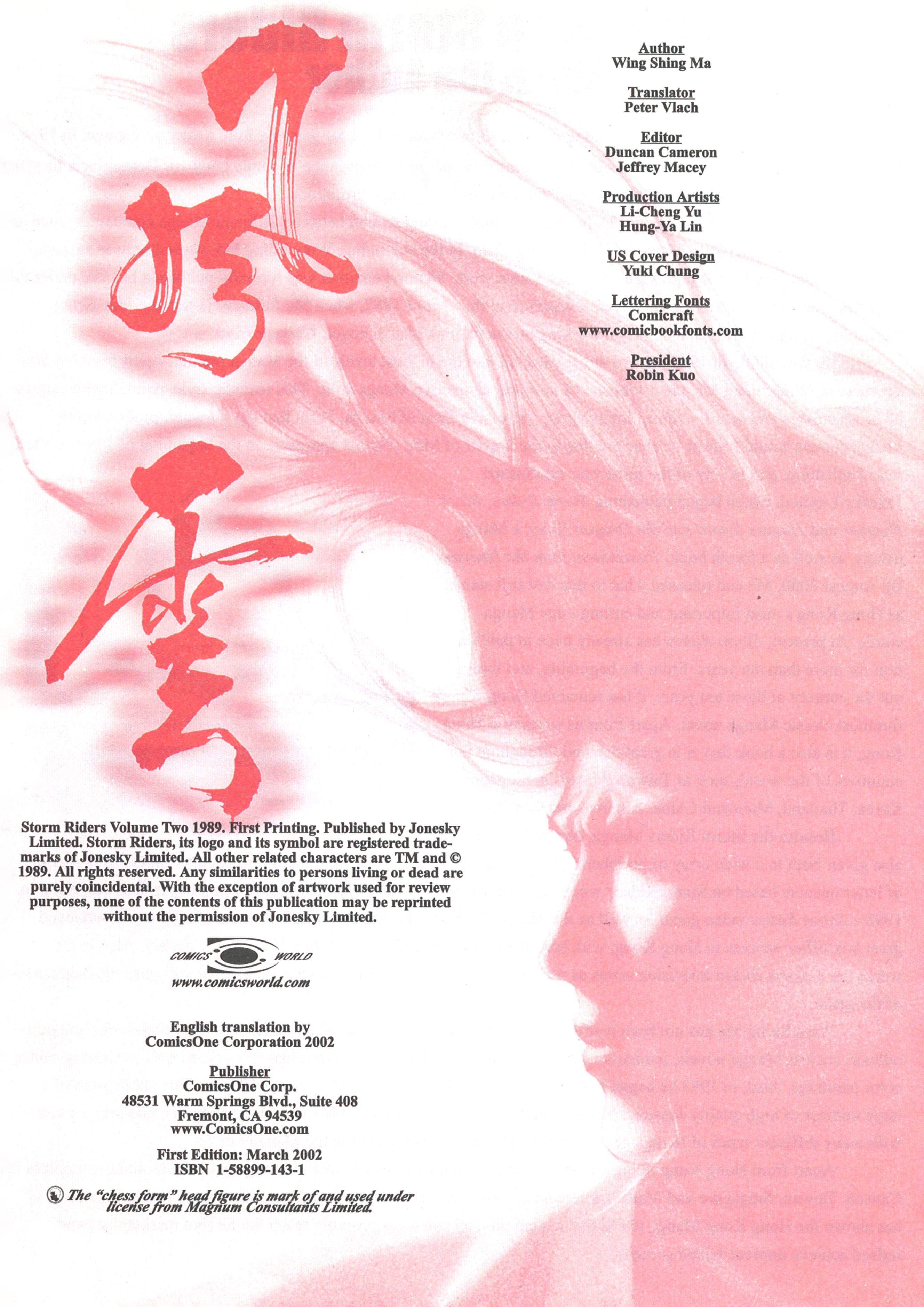
STORM RIDERS 風雲

by Wing Shing Ma

SUGGESTED
13UP

About the Author

Jonesky Limited was established in 1989. On July 1st of that same year Jonesky Limited founder Mr. Wing Shing Ma, started to publish his popular work "Storm Riders". "Storm Riders" is the first Hong Kong Comic to use Kung Fu and movie techniques in a comic production. "Storm Riders" strikes a chord in the hearts of its readers. Mr. Ma's style is loved and respected in Asia.



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The "chess form" head figure is mark of and used under license from Magnum Consultants Limited.

Preface to Storm Riders
About the Author

Wing Shing Ma, born in Hong Kong in 1961, showed a deep love for painting from a very young age. In 1976, at the age of 14 he read in a newspaper about positions available as an apprentice in comic book art. Determined, he sent in his submission. This step marked his official entrance into the Manga profession.

After entering the comics world, he spent his time moving around between different Manga companies, such as Ru Xi Bao, Jin Manga (Gold Manga) and Xin Lang Chao. In the beginning, Wing Shing Ma worked only as an assistant, but before long he had published some of his own work. His first creation was formally published in 1976 under the title, *Daydream* (Bai Ri Meng). However, it wasn't until the year of 1982, when Ma formally joined the Jade Group Publishing Company Ltd., that he began working on the famous Manga novel, *Chinese Hero*.

By the middle of 1983, he had already leaped into the highest levels of the Manga market. Apart from his market success, Wing Shing Ma had established a new and distinctive Manga style. This realistic style, painted with exquisite brush strokes and detail, allowed for a deeply expressive form of Manga. From that day forward, production of Manga comics would forever be changed due to the impact of Ma's original approach. In the beginning of 1989, Ma left Jade Publishing, and in July of the same year established Jonesky Limited, which began publishing *Storm Riders, Black Panther;* and *Heaven Sword and the Dragon Saber;* a Manga trilogy, as well as a fourth book, *Punishment from the Heavens*. By August 2000, Ma had released what to this day still stands as Hong Kong's most important and cutting-edge Manga comic. At present, *Storm Riders* has already been in publication for more than ten years. From the beginning, and throughout the entirety of those ten years, it has remained Hong Kong's foremost classic Manga novel. Apart from its success in Hong Kong, it is also a book that is in great demand throughout many countries of the world, such as Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Thailand, Mainland China, America and Canada.

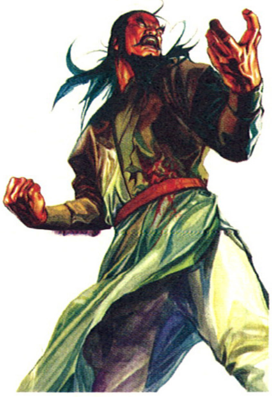
Besides the Storm Riders Manga, *Storm Riders* has also given birth to a wide array of peripheral products that bear likenesses from the Storm Riders Manga, such as a line of letter openers based on Storm Riders' weapons, T-shirts, wrist watches, action figures, pens, paper fans, etc. Also, in 1998 a *Storm Riders* video game, as well as the *Storm Riders* movie was released. The *Storm Riders* movie achieved great box office success in Hong Kong, with box office sales exceeding 40 million Hong Kong dollars. Also in the works are a *Storm Riders* television series as well as a *Storm Riders* Net-based video game that will push the boundaries of the genre.

Wing Shing Ma has not been restricted to creating Mangas. He has also published many other books and periodicals, such as Manga novels, hardcover Manga novels and collections of individual artwork, as well as Chinese watercolor paintings. Also, in 1993 he began to import Japanese Mangas for translation into Chinese. His publication of a large number of high quality Japanese Mangas gave Hong Kong Manga readers the opportunity to come into contact with many different types of Manga genres, thus furthering diversification in the Manga market.

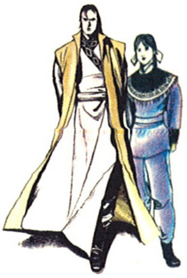
Apart from Hong Kong Manga, he has been invited many times to attend Manga exhibitions and conferences in Canada, Taiwan, Singapore and Macau, where he always receives an enthusiastic reception. Wing Shing Ma's success has shown the Hong Kong Manga world that a local product can most certainly reach the foreign marketplace and indeed achieve unprecedented success.

STORM RIDERS 風雲

Relationship Chart



Conquer: Exceptionally powerful martial artist with plans of controlling the World Fighting Association. He takes on Wind and Cloud as his disciples in order to fulfill his destiny.
Technique: Chi of Triplication Returns to One , Triplication Fingers



Kong-Chi

Kong-Chi: Adopted daughter of Conquer and wife of Frost, though her heart lies elsewhere.

Frost: Long-time disciple of Conquer. Married to Conquer's adopted daughter Kong-Chi. Leader of the Frost Corps: an elite fighting unit which is a part of the World Fighting Association. His Mission to find Mud Buddha.
Technique: Sky Frost Fist

Adopted Daughter of Conquer

Frost

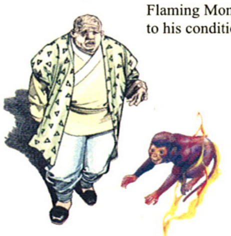
Disciple of Conquer

Conquer

Disciple of Conquer

Disciple of Conquer

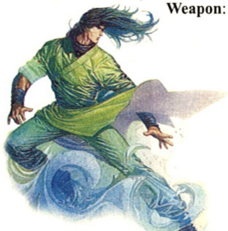
Mud Buddha: Prophet who is sought by many to predict their future. Gravely ill, his gift of prophecy brings him closer to death each time he uses it. Flaming Monkey holds the cure to his condition.



Flaming Monkey: He holds the cure to Mud Buddha's condition. The forces that seek Mud Buddha's wisdom battle to control Flaming Monkey.

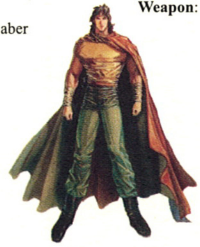
Mud Buddha & Flaming Monkey

Wind: Disciple of Conquer and leader of the Wind Corps: an elite fighting unit which is part of the World Fighting Association. Son of Master Nie. His mission to find Mud Buddha.
Techniques: Ice Heart Knack, Deity of Wind Kick
Weapon: Inherits the Snowy Saber



Wind
(Nie-Fong)

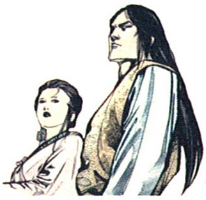
Cloud: Son of Master Ho and disciple of Conquer. Leader of the Cloud Corps: an elite fighting unit which is part of the World Fighting Association.
Technique: Repelling Palm
Weapon: Ultimate Sword



Cloud
(Bu-Jing-Yun)

Good Friends

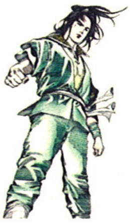
Servant of Cloud



Phoenix & Dragon

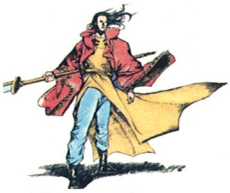
Phoenix: Wife of Dragon and Servant of Nameless. Childless, she and her husband seek an answer from Mud Buddha.
Technique: Phoenix from the Heavens
Weapon: Phoenix Arrow

Dragon: Husband of Phoenix and member of the Five Sons of Elation Sect. Childless, he and his wife seek an answer from Mud Buddha.
Technique: Revealing the Dragon
Weapon: Dragon Blade



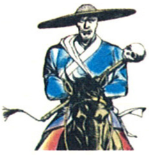
Duan-Lang

Duan-Lang: Son of Master Duan
Weapon: Inherits the Flame Kylin Sword



Guan-Seven

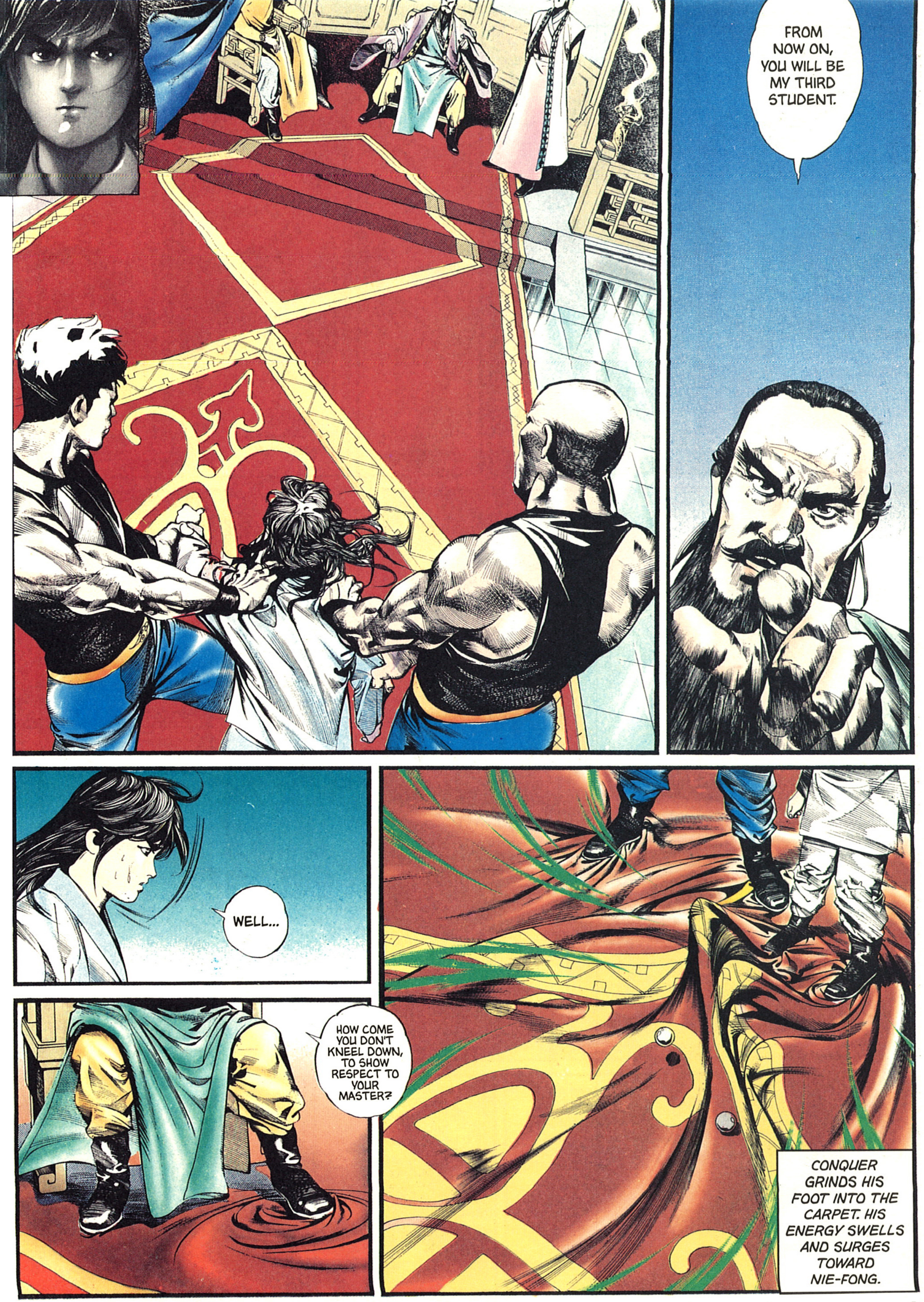
Guan Seven: Master of Lien Stronghold. He battles Cloud, who believes a traitor to Conquer is hiding in the Stronghold.
Technique: Chopping Knife
Weapon: Horse Knife

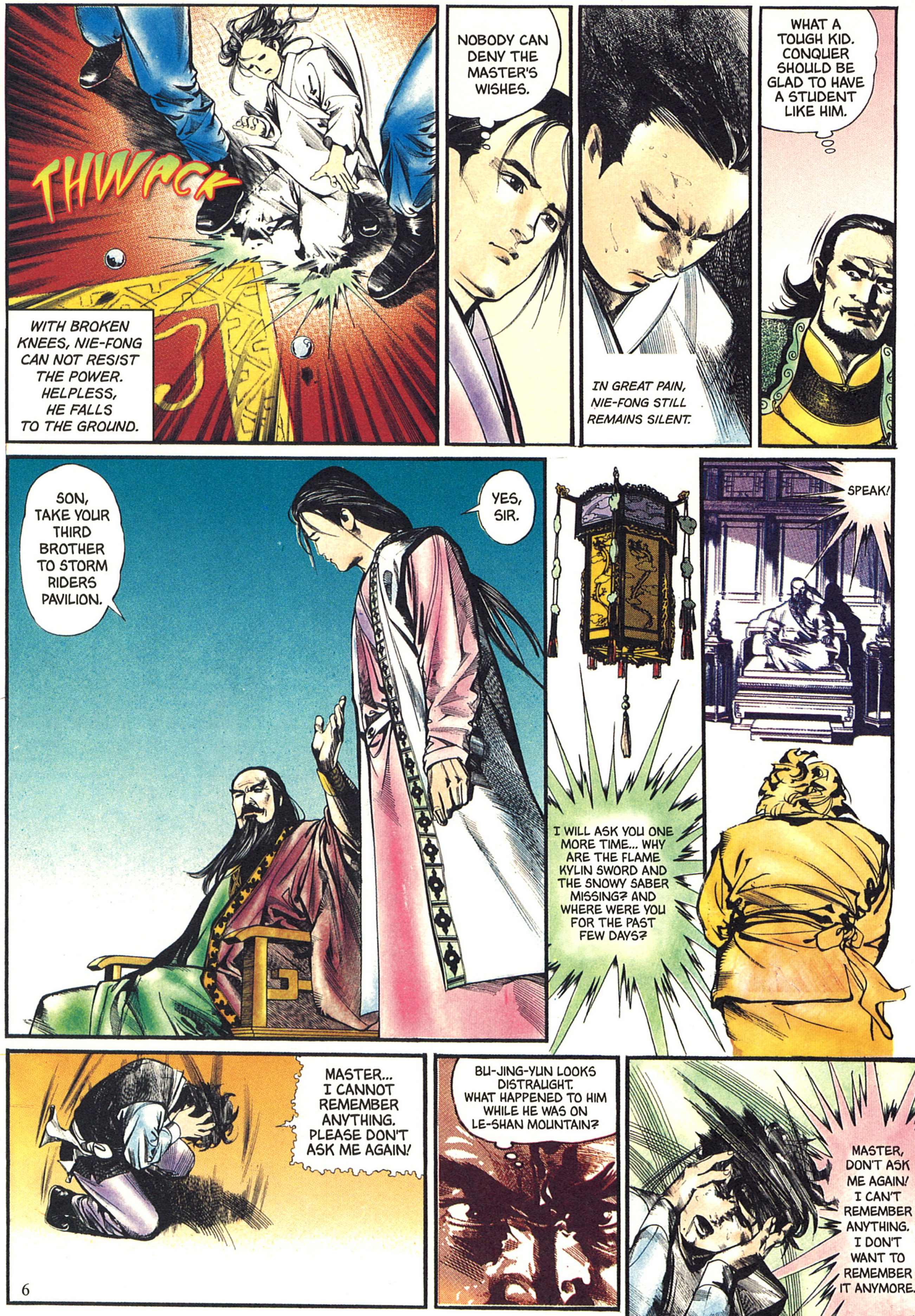


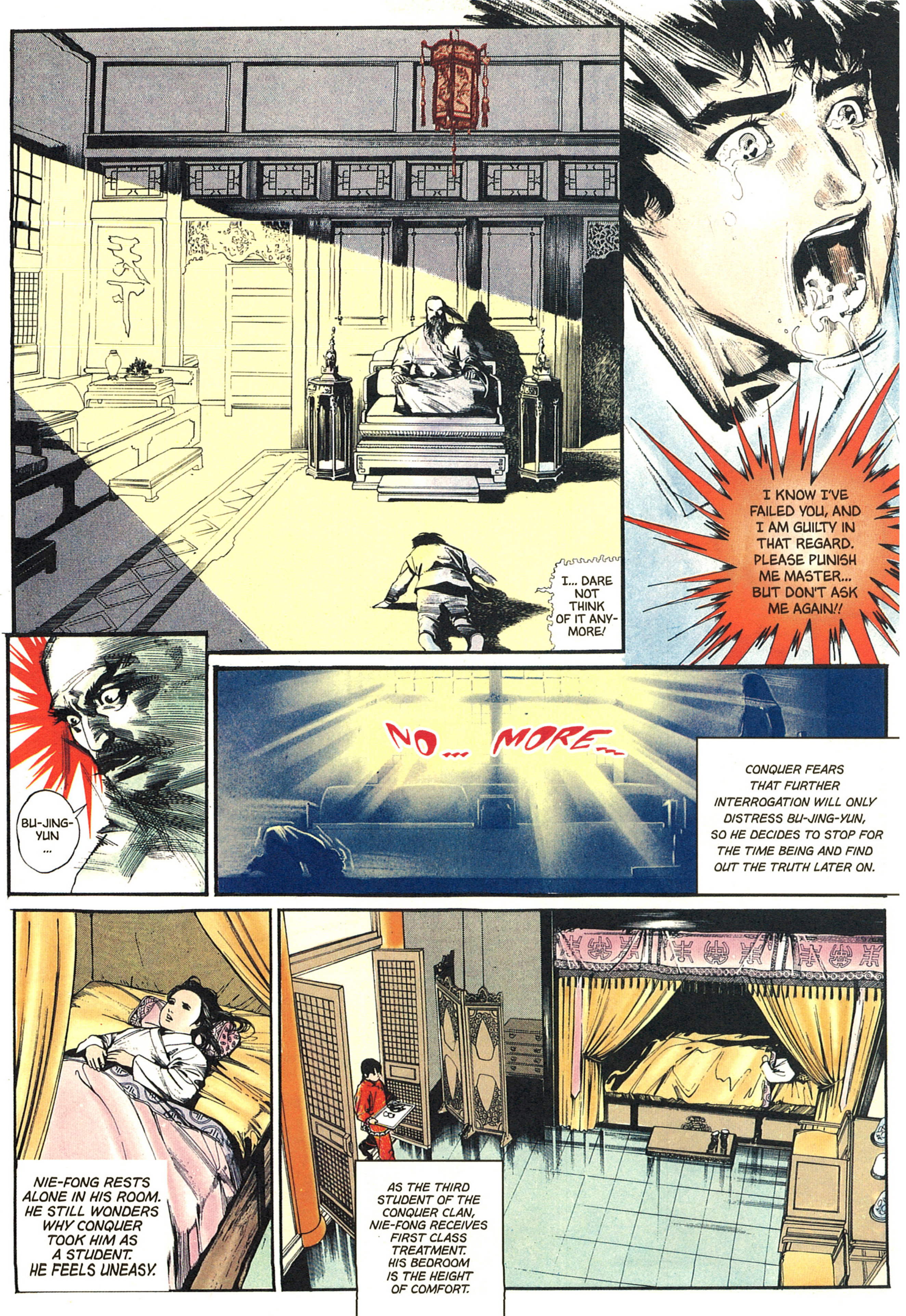
Tian

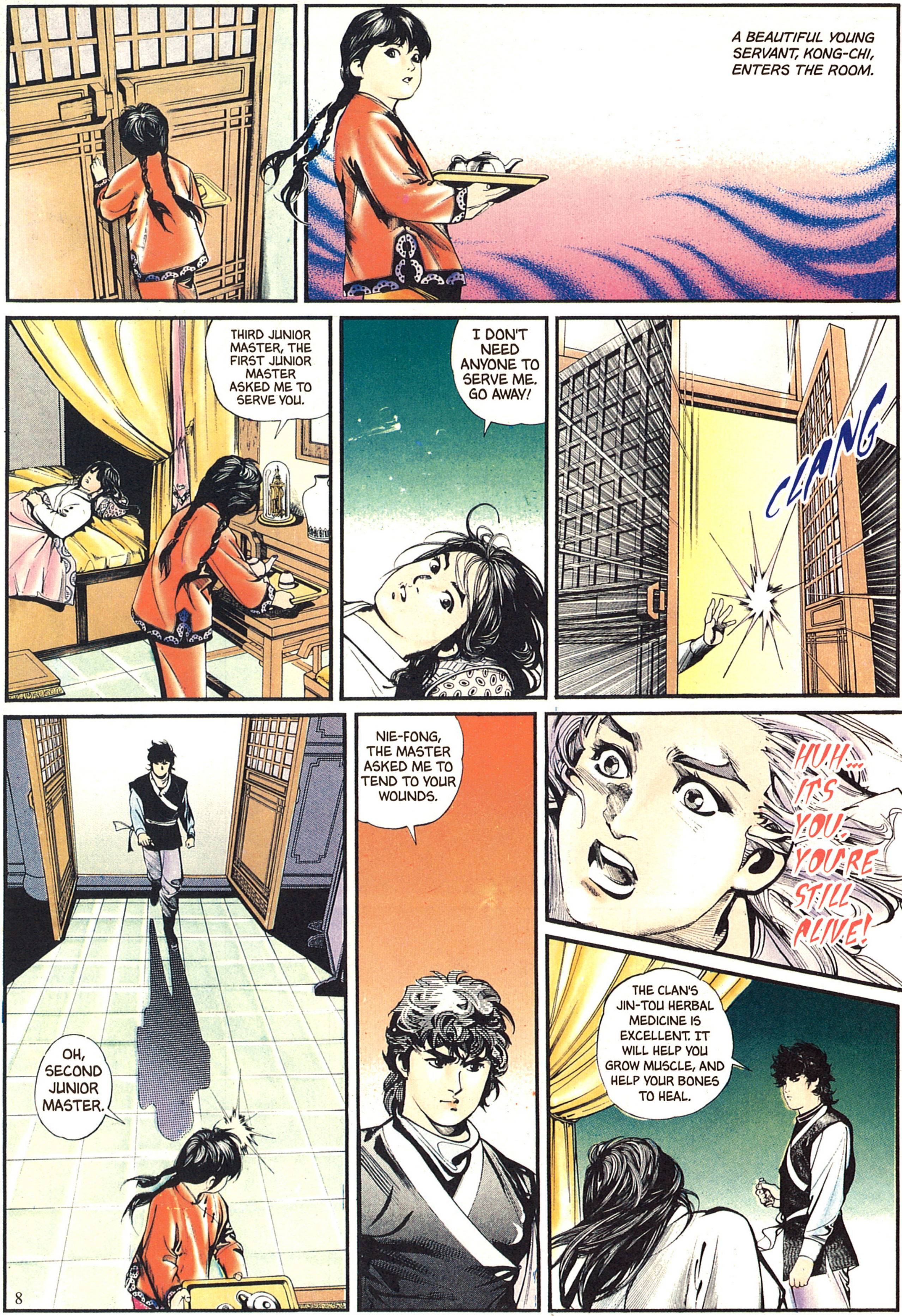
Tian: Cloud's servant. He was defeated by Cloud many years ago and must live as his servant. He is a loyal servant, but deep inside he dreams of defeating Cloud and regaining his honor.
Technique: Legion of Skulls
Weapon: Skull Shaft

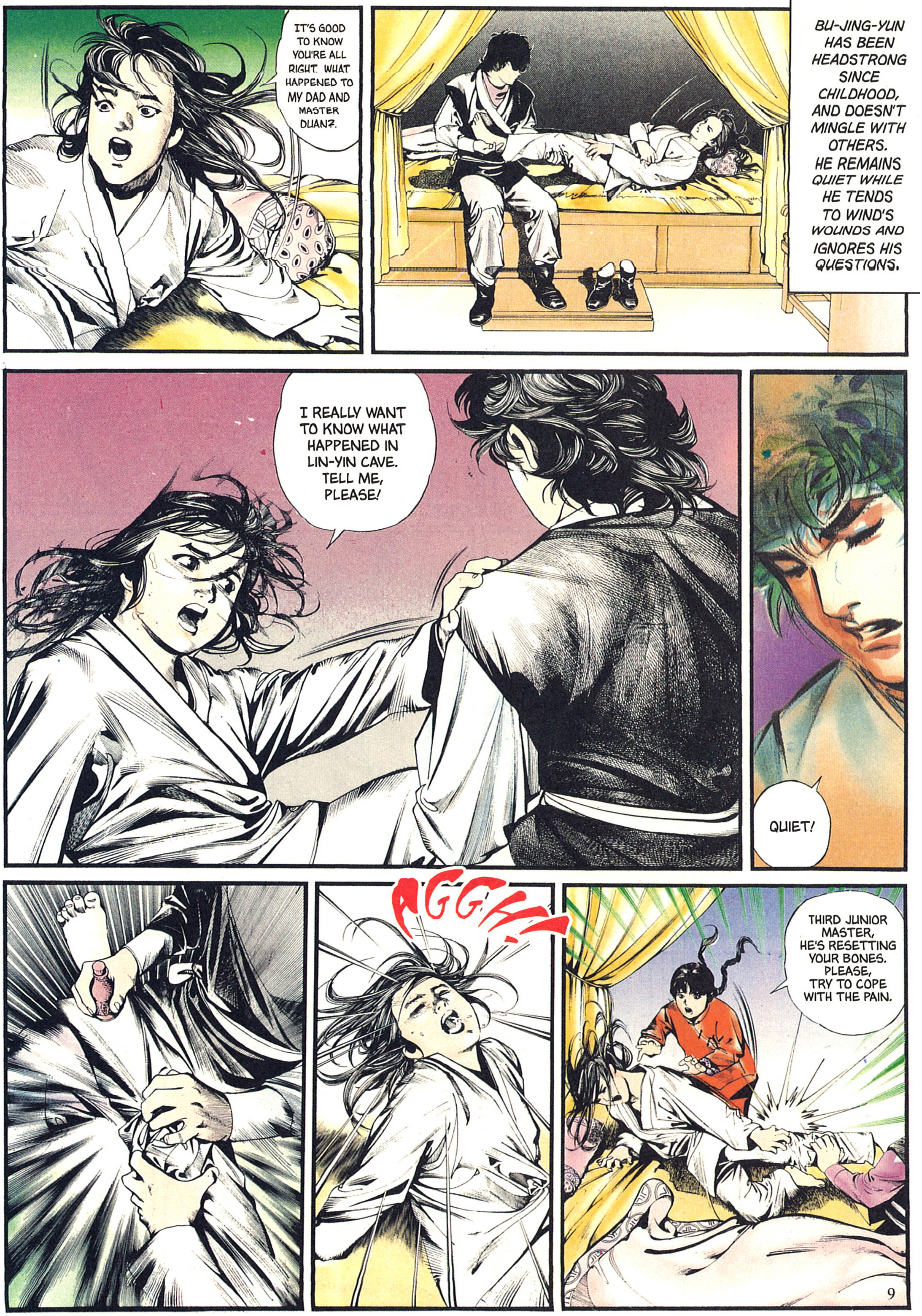
Chapter 5: As Wind And Cloud Emerge

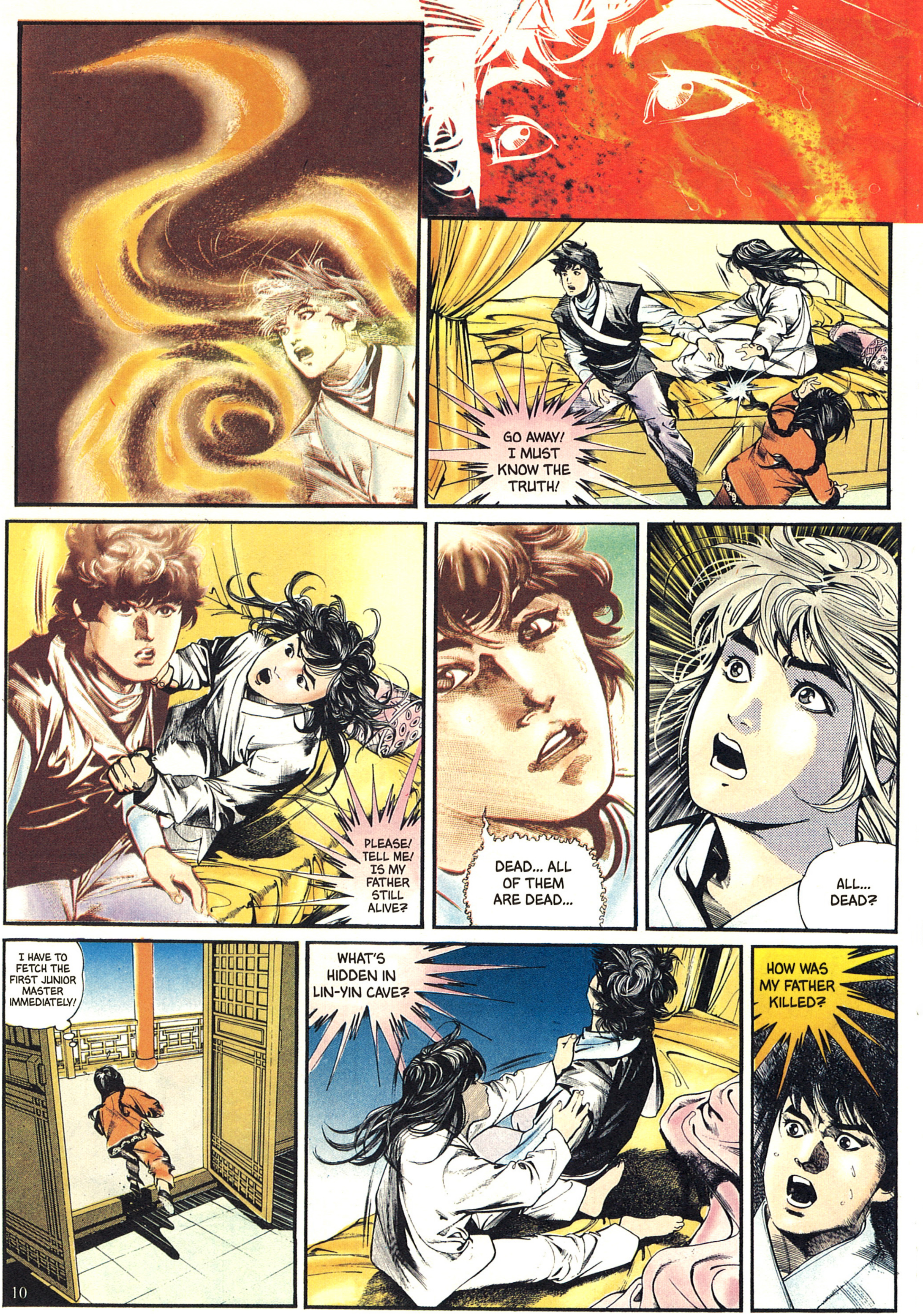

FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL BE MY THIRD STUDENT.
WELL...
HOW COME YOU DON'T KNEEL DOWN, TO SHOW RESPECT TO YOUR MASTER?
CONQUER GRINDS HIS FOOT INTO THE CARPET. HIS ENERGY SWELLS AND SURGES TOWARD NIE-FONG.

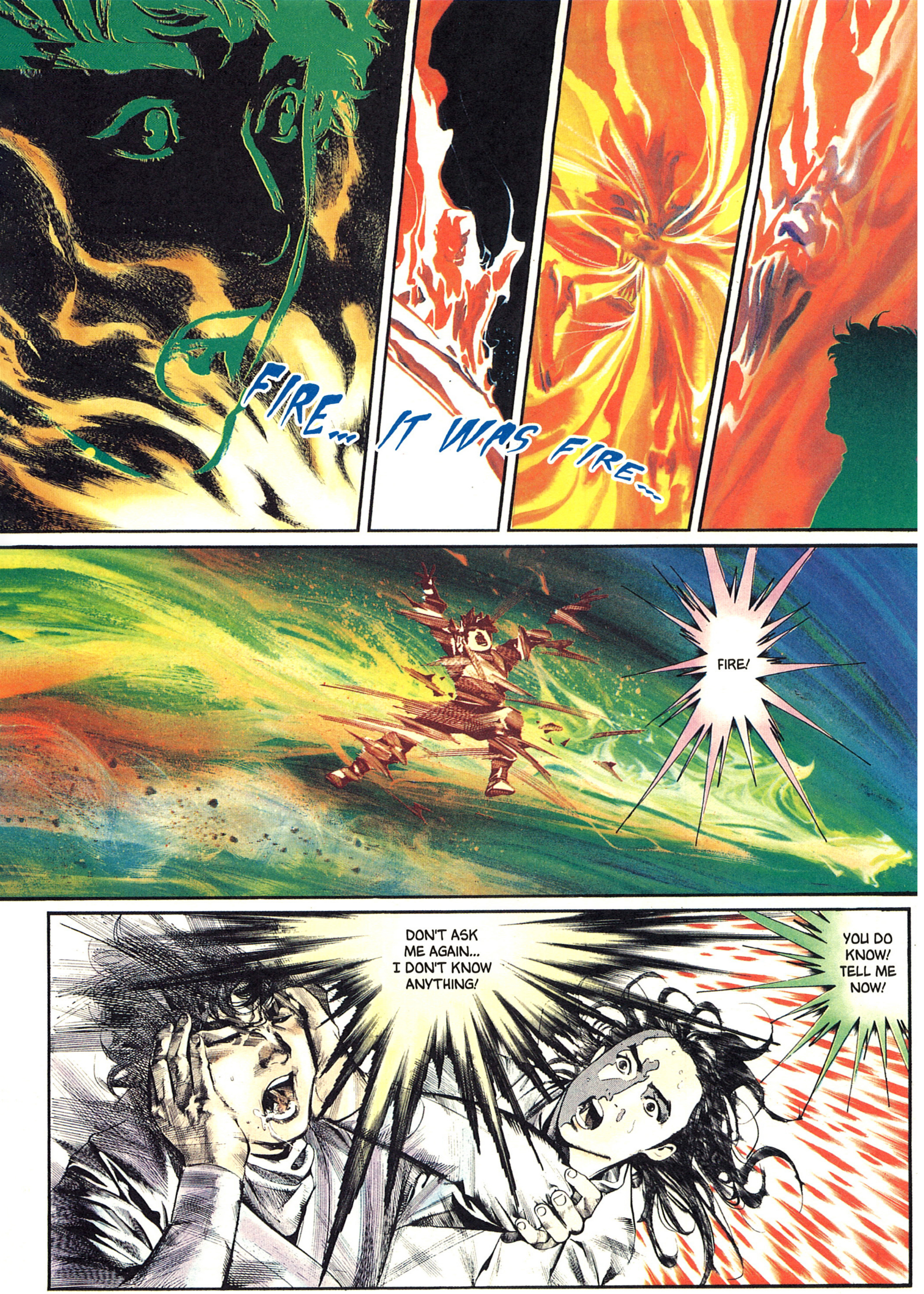

THWACK
WITH BROKEN KNEES, NIE-FONG CAN NOT RESIST THE POWER. HELPLESS, HE FALLS TO THE GROUND.
NOBODY CAN DENY THE MASTER'S WISHES.
IN GREAT PAIN, NIE-FONG STILL REMAINS SILENT.
WHAT A TOUGH KID. CONQUER SHOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE A STUDENT LIKE HIM.
SON, TAKE YOUR THIRD BROTHER TO STORM RIDERS PAVILION.
YES, SIR.
SPEAK!
I WILL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME... WHY ARE THE FLAME KYLIN SWORD AND THE SNOWY SABER MISSING? AND WHERE WERE YOU FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS?
MASTER... I CANNOT REMEMBER ANYTHING. PLEASE DON'T ASK ME AGAIN!
BU-JING-YUN LOOKS DISTRAUGHT. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM WHILE HE WAS ON LE-SHAN MOUNTAIN?
MASTER, DON'T ASK ME AGAIN! I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING. I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER IT ANYMORE.

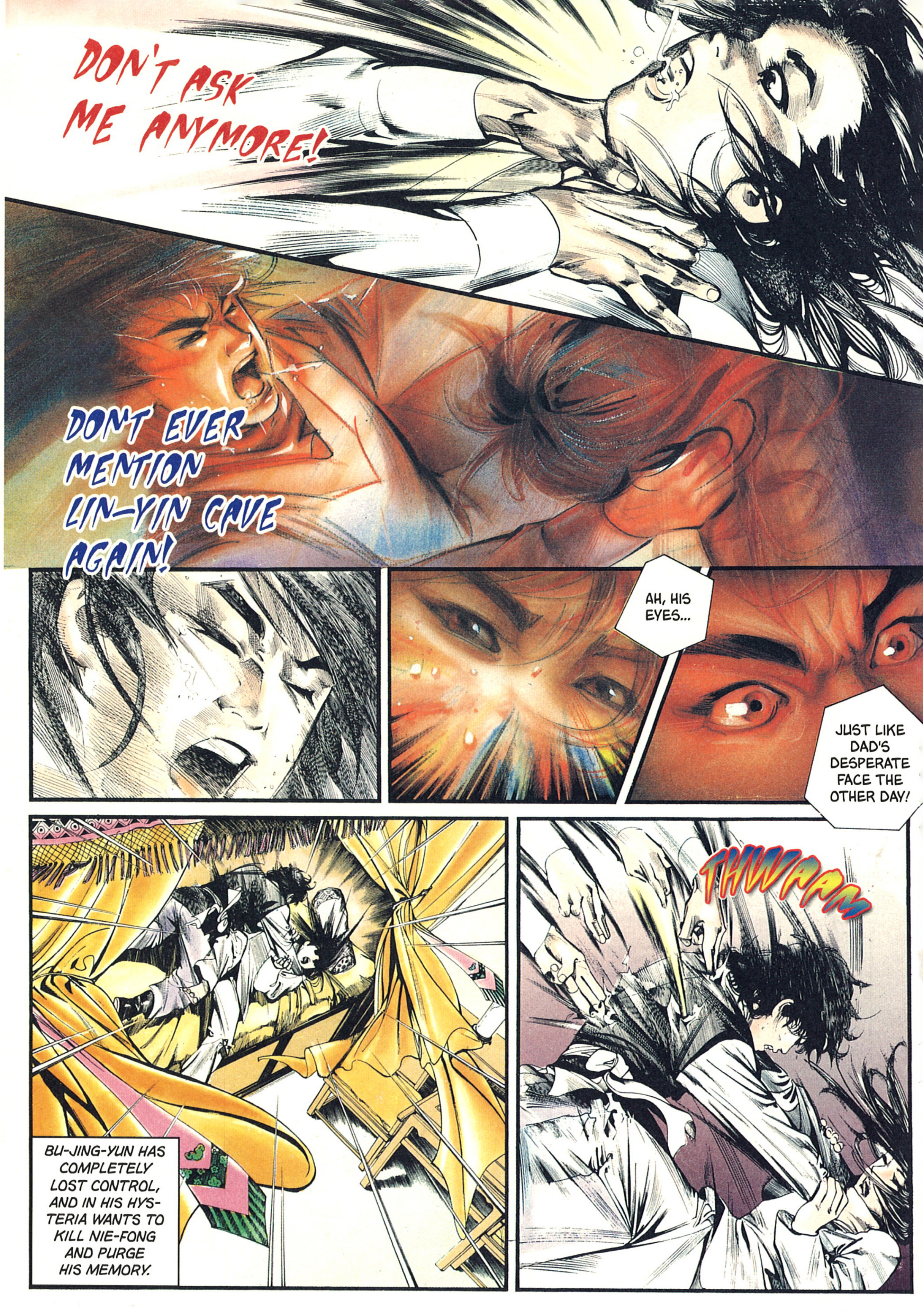

I... DARE NOT THINK OF IT ANYMORE!
I KNOW I'VE FAILED YOU, AND I AM GUILTY IN THAT REGARD. PLEASE PUNISH ME MASTER... BUT DON'T ASK ME AGAIN!!
BU-JING-YUN ...
NO... MORE...
CONQUER FEARS THAT FURTHER INTERROGATION WILL ONLY DISTRESS BU-JING-YUN, SO HE DECIDES TO STOP FOR THE TIME BEING AND FIND OUT THE TRUTH LATER ON.
NIE-FONG RESTS ALONE IN HIS ROOM. HE STILL WONDERS WHY CONQUER TOOK HIM AS A STUDENT. HE FEELS UNEASY.
AS THE THIRD STUDENT OF THE CONQUER CLAN, NIE-FONG RECEIVES FIRST CLASS TREATMENT. HIS BEDROOM IS THE HEIGHT OF COMFORT.


A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG SERVANT, KONG-CHI, ENTERS THE ROOM.
THIRD JUNIOR MASTER, THE FIRST JUNIOR MASTER ASKED ME TO SERVE YOU.
I DON'T NEED ANYONE TO SERVE ME. GO AWAY!
CLANG
OH, SECOND JUNIOR MASTER.
NIE-FONG, THE MASTER ASKED ME TO TEND TO YOUR WOUNDS.
HUH... IT'S YOU. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
THE CLAN'S JIN-TOU HERBAL MEDICINE IS EXCELLENT. IT WILL HELP YOU GROW MUSCLE, AND HELP YOUR BONES TO HEAL.

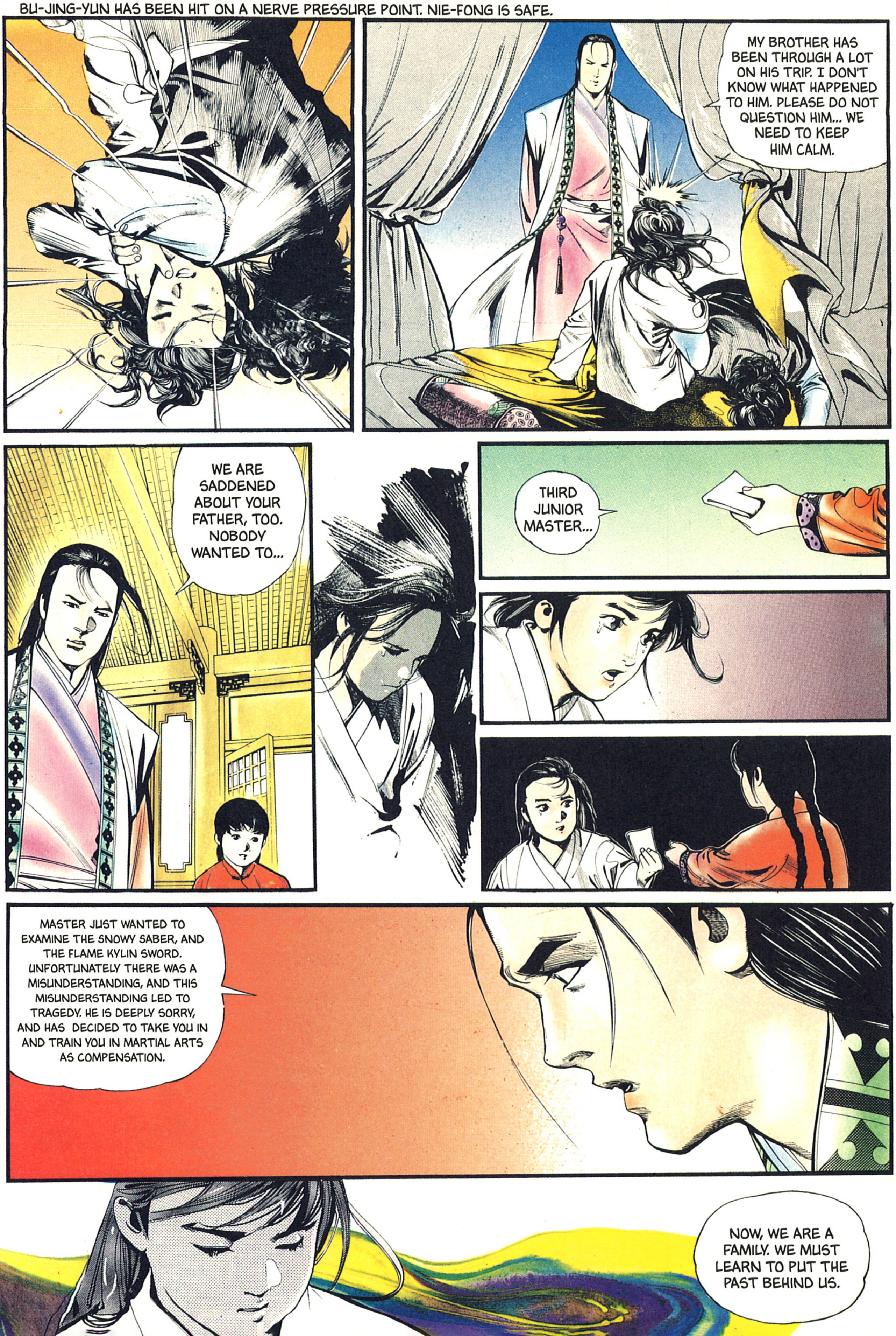

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. WHAT HAPPENED TO MY DAD AND MASTER DUAN?
BU-JING-YUN HAS BEEN HEADSTRONG SINCE CHILDHOOD, AND DOESN'T MINGLE WITH OTHERS. HE REMAINS QUIET WHILE HE TENDS TO WIND'S WOUNDS AND IGNORES HIS QUESTIONS.
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN LIN-YIN CAVE. TELL ME, PLEASE!
QUIET!
AGGH!
THIRD JUNIOR MASTER, HE'S RESETTING YOUR BONES. PLEASE, TRY TO COPE WITH THE PAIN.

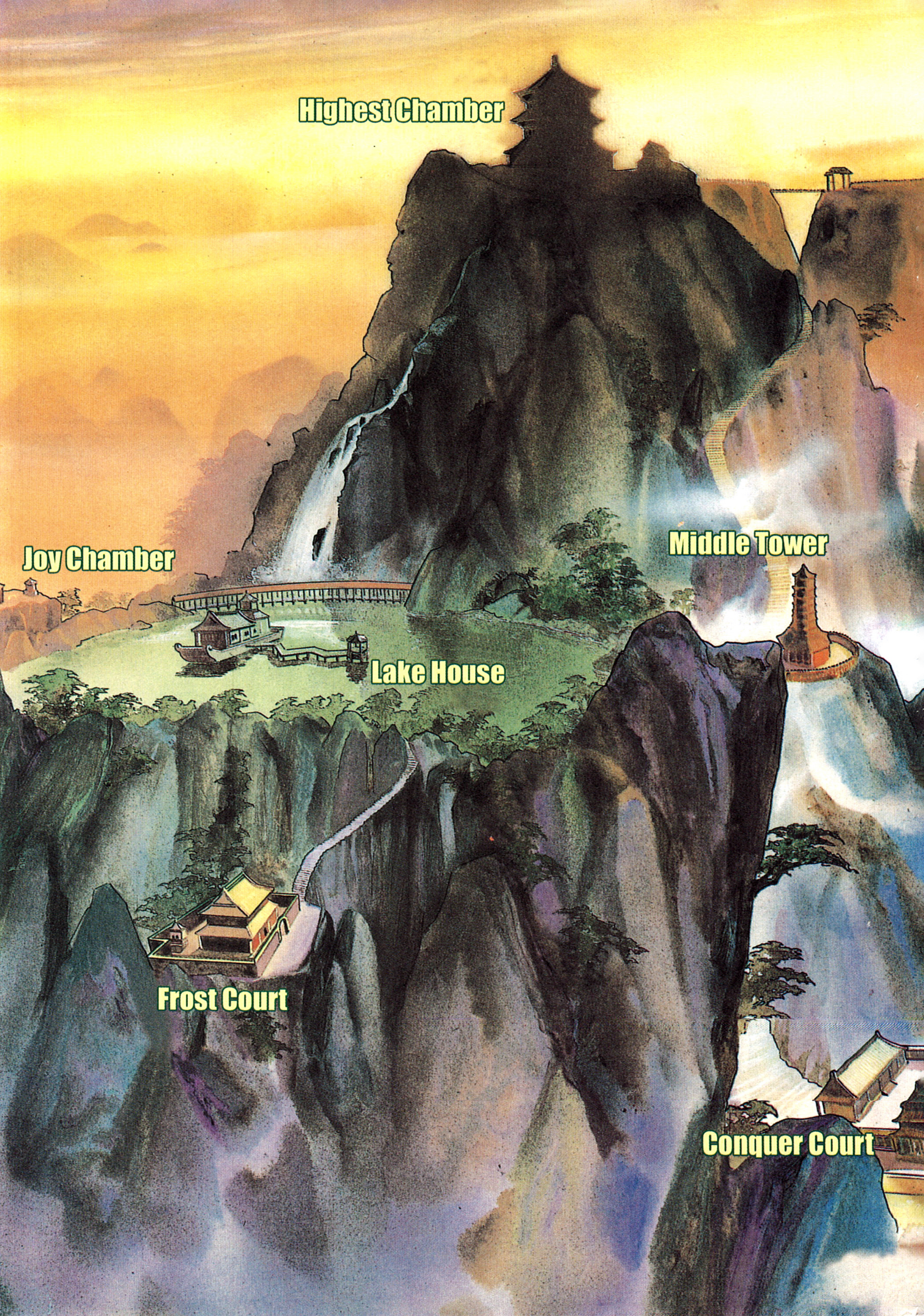

GO AWAY! I MUST KNOW THE TRUTH!
PLEASE! TELL ME! IS MY FATHER STILL ALIVE?
DEAD... ALL OF THEM ARE DEAD...
ALL... DEAD?
I HAVE TO FETCH THE FIRST JUNIOR MASTER IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT'S HIDDEN IN LIN-YIN CAVE?
HOW WAS MY FATHER KILLED?

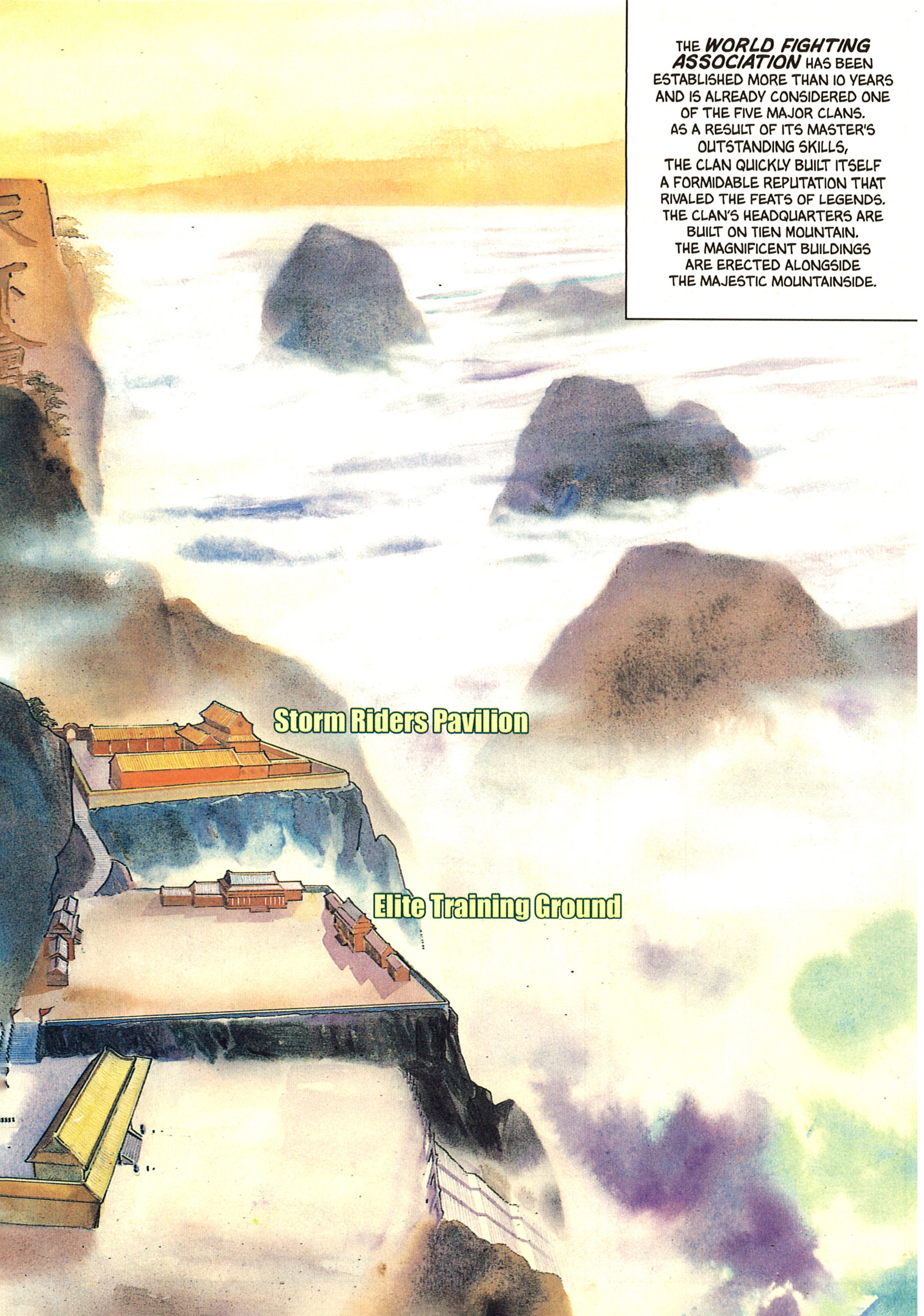

FIRE... IT WAS FIRE...
FIRE!
DON'T ASK ME AGAIN... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
YOU DO KNOW! TELL ME NOW!

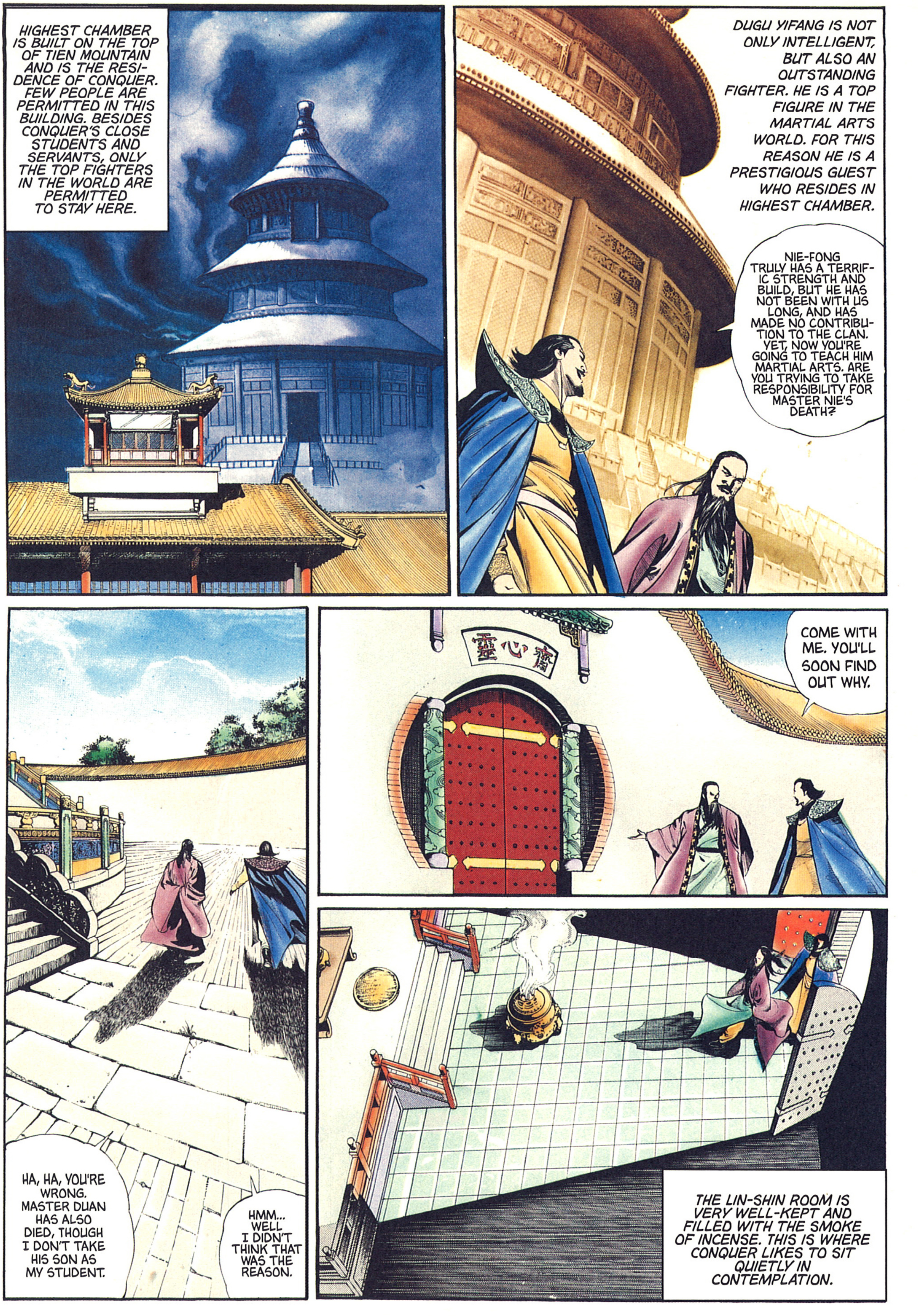

DON'T ASK ME ANYMORE!
DON'T EVER MENTION LIN-YIN CAVE AGAIN!
AH, HIS EYES...
JUST LIKE DAD'S DESPERATE FACE THE OTHER DAY!
BU-JING-YUN HAS COMPLETELY LOST CONTROL, AND IN HIS HYSTERIA WANTS TO KILL NIE-FONG AND PURGE HIS MEMORY.
THWAAM

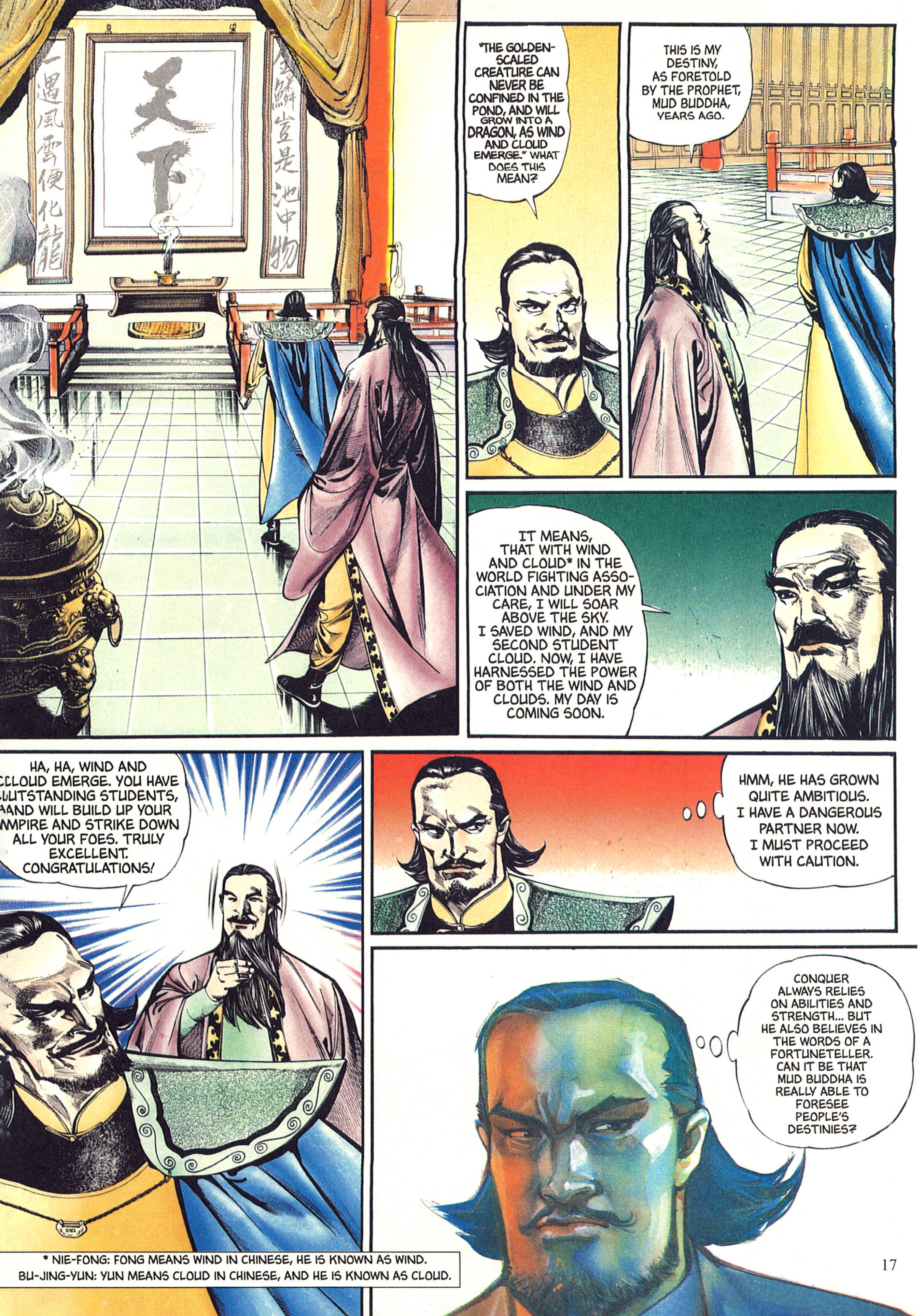
BU-JING-YUN HAS BEEN HIT ON A NERVE PRESSURE POINT. NIE-FONG IS SAFE.


MY BROTHER HAS BEEN THROUGH A LOT ON HIS TRIP. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. PLEASE DO NOT QUESTION HIM... WE NEED TO KEEP HIM CALM.
WE ARE SADDENED ABOUT YOUR FATHER, TOO. NOBODY WANTED TO...
THIRD JUNIOR MASTER...
MASTER JUST WANTED TO EXAMINE THE SNOWY SABER, AND THE FLAME KYLIN SWORD. UNFORTUNATELY THERE WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING, AND THIS MISUNDERSTANDING LED TO TRAGEDY. HE IS DEEPLY SORRY, AND HAS DECIDED TO TAKE YOU IN AND TRAIN YOU IN MARTIAL ARTS AS COMPENSATION.
NOW, WE ARE A FAMILY. WE MUST LEARN TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US.


Highest Chamber
Joy Chamber
Middle Tower
Lake House
Frost Court
Conquer Court


THE **WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION** HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED MORE THAN 10 YEARS AND IS ALREADY CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FIVE MAJOR CLANS. AS A RESULT OF ITS MASTER'S OUTSTANDING SKILLS, THE CLAN QUICKLY BUILT ITSELF A FORMIDABLE REPUTATION THAT RIVALED THE FEATS OF LEGENDS. THE CLAN'S HEADQUARTERS ARE BUILT ON TIEN MOUNTAIN. THE MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS ARE ERECTED ALONGSIDE THE MAJESTIC MOUNTAINSIDE.
Storm Riders Pavilion
Elite Training Ground


HIGHEST CHAMBER IS BUILT ON THE TOP OF TIEN MOUNTAIN AND IS THE RESIDENCE OF CONQUER. FEW PEOPLE ARE PERMITTED IN THIS BUILDING. BESIDES CONQUER'S CLOSE STUDENTS AND SERVANTS, ONLY THE TOP FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD ARE PERMITTED TO STAY HERE.
DUGU YIFANG IS NOT ONLY INTELLIGENT, BUT ALSO AN OUTSTANDING FIGHTER. HE IS A TOP FIGURE IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD. FOR THIS REASON HE IS A PRESTIGIOUS GUEST WHO RESIDES IN HIGHEST CHAMBER.
NIE-FONG TRULY HAS A TERRIFIC STRENGTH AND BUILD, BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN WITH US LONG, AND HAS MADE NO CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLAN. YET, NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TEACH HIM MARTIAL ARTS. ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MASTER NIE'S DEATH?
HA, HA, YOU'RE WRONG. MASTER DUAN HAS ALSO DIED, THOUGH I DON'T TAKE HIS SON AS MY STUDENT.
HMM... WELL I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS THE REASON.
靈心齋
COME WITH ME. YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT WHY.
THE LIN-SHIN ROOM IS VERY WELL-KEPT AND FILLED WITH THE SMOKE OF INCENSE. THIS IS WHERE CONQUER LIKES TO SIT QUIETLY IN CONTEMPLATION.

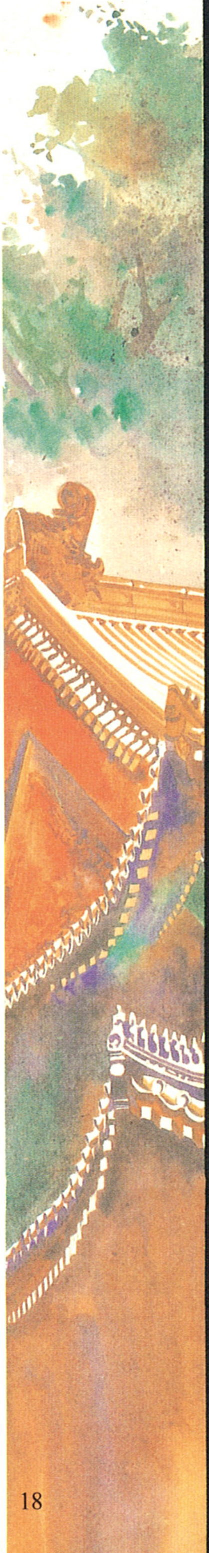

金鱗豈是池中物
天下
一遇風雲便化龍
"THE GOLDEN-SCALED CREATURE CAN NEVER BE CONFINED IN THE POND, AND WILL GROW INTO A DRAGON, AS WIND AND CLOUD EMERGE." WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
THIS IS MY DESTINY, AS FORETOLD BY THE PROPHET, MUD BUDDHA, YEARS AGO.
IT MEANS, THAT WITH WIND AND CLOUD* IN THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION AND UNDER MY CARE, I WILL SOAR ABOVE THE SKY. I SAVED WIND, AND MY SECOND STUDENT CLOUD. NOW, I HAVE HARNESSED THE POWER OF BOTH THE WIND AND CLOUDS. MY DAY IS COMING SOON.
HA, HA, WIND AND CLOUD EMERGE. YOU HAVE UTSTANDING STUDENTS, AND WILL BUILD UP YOUR MPIRE AND STRIKE DOWN ALL YOUR FOES. TRULY EXCELLENT. CONGRATULATIONS!
HMM, HE HAS GROWN QUITE AMBITIOUS. I HAVE A DANGEROUS PARTNER NOW. I MUST PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
CONQUER ALWAYS RELIES ON ABILITIES AND STRENGTH... BUT HE ALSO BELIEVES IN THE WORDS OF A FORTUNETELLER. CAN IT BE THAT MUD BUDDHA IS REALLY ABLE TO FORESEE PEOPLE'S DESTINIES?

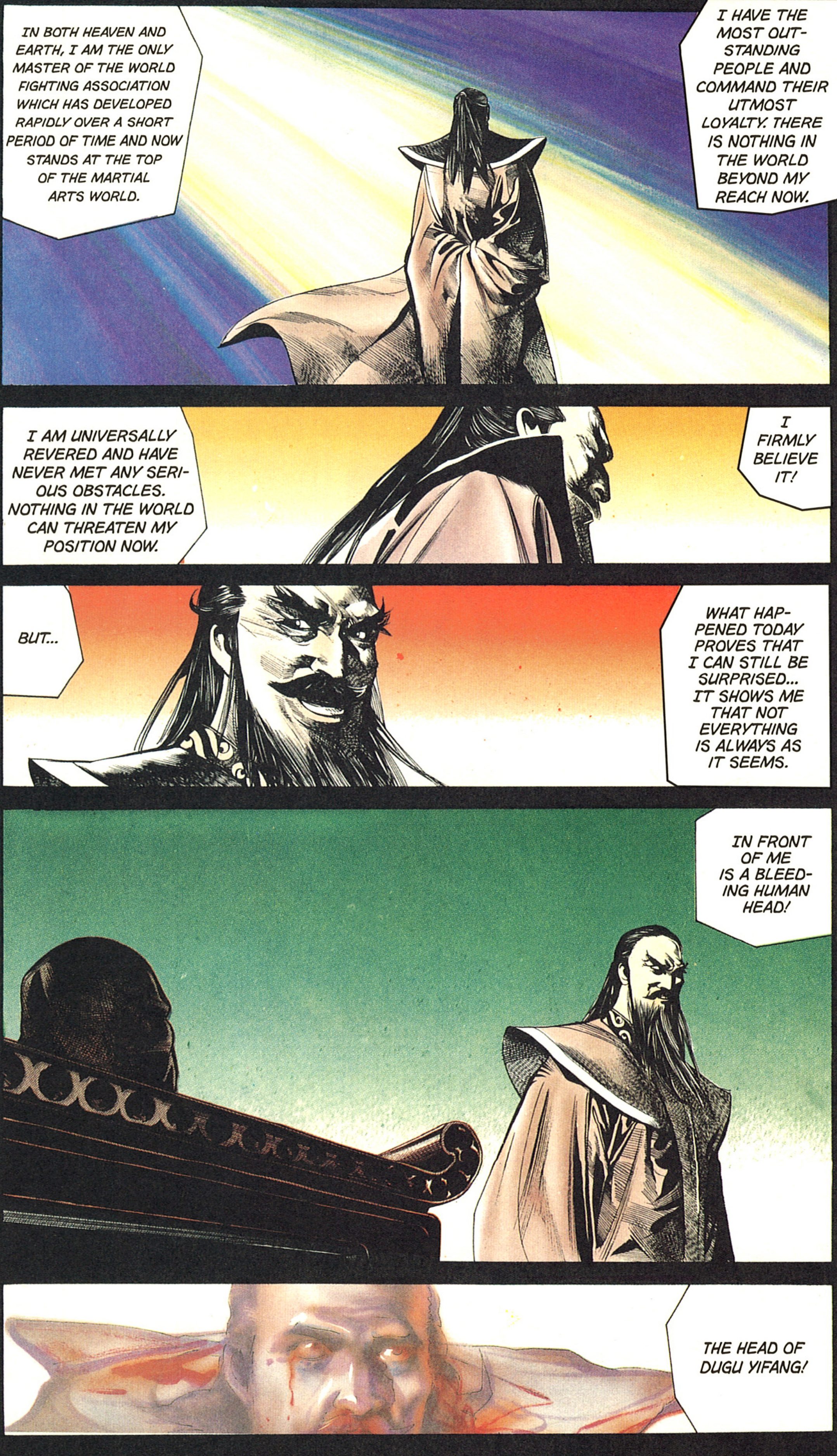
---

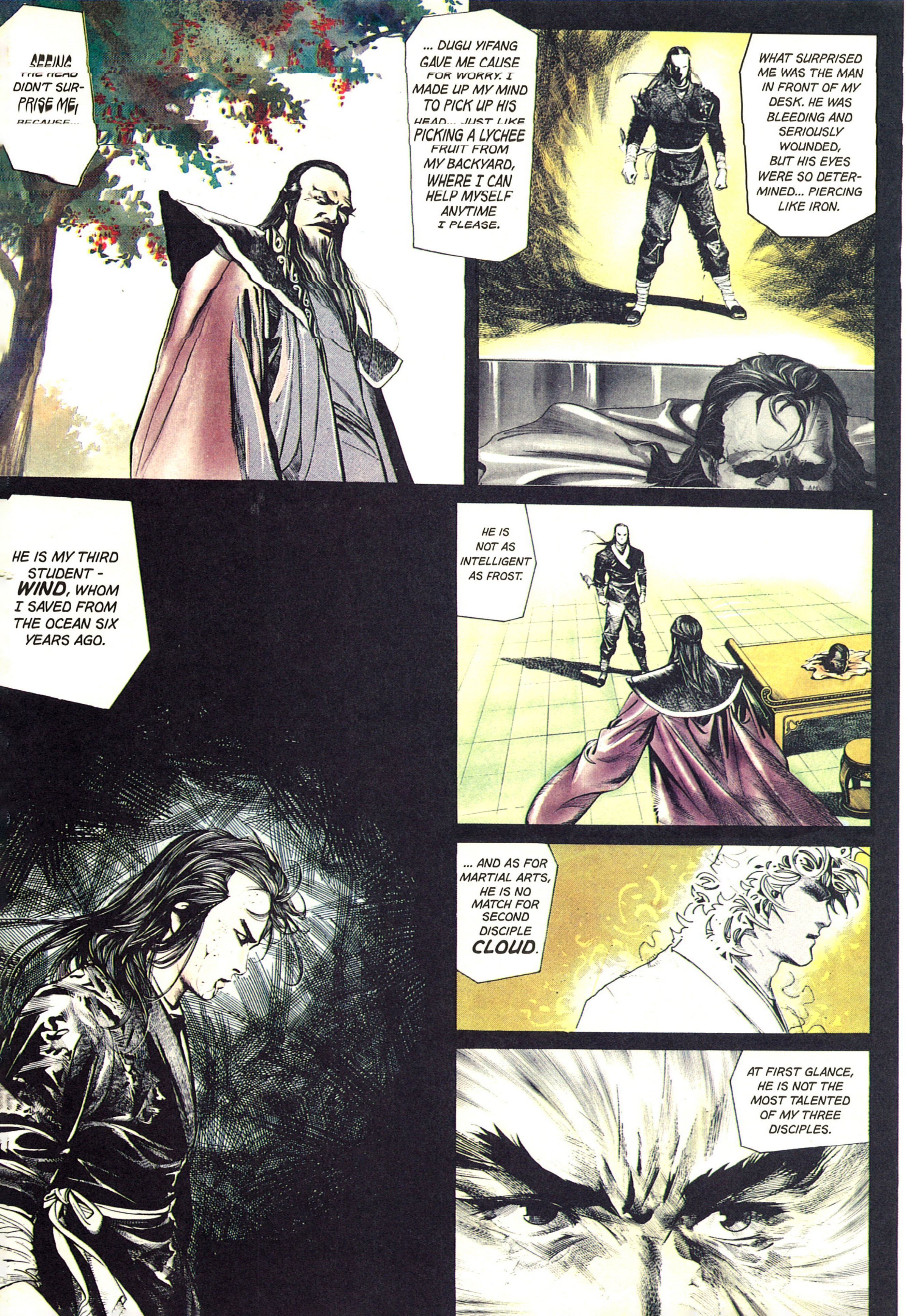
* NIE-FONG: FONG MEANS WIND IN CHINESE, HE IS KNOWN AS WIND.
BU-JING-YUN: YUN MEANS CLOUD IN CHINESE, AND HE IS KNOWN AS CLOUD.

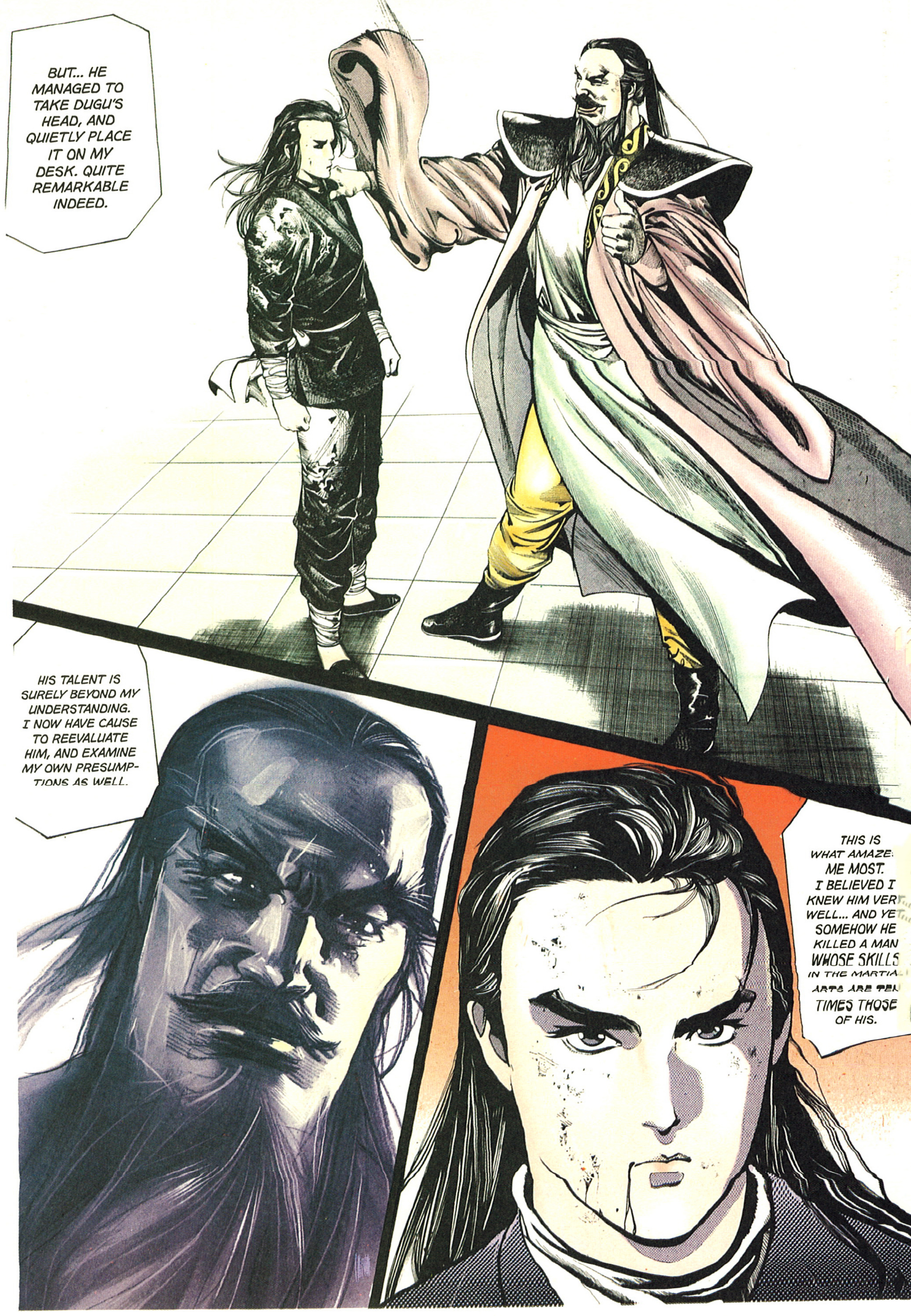
6 years later

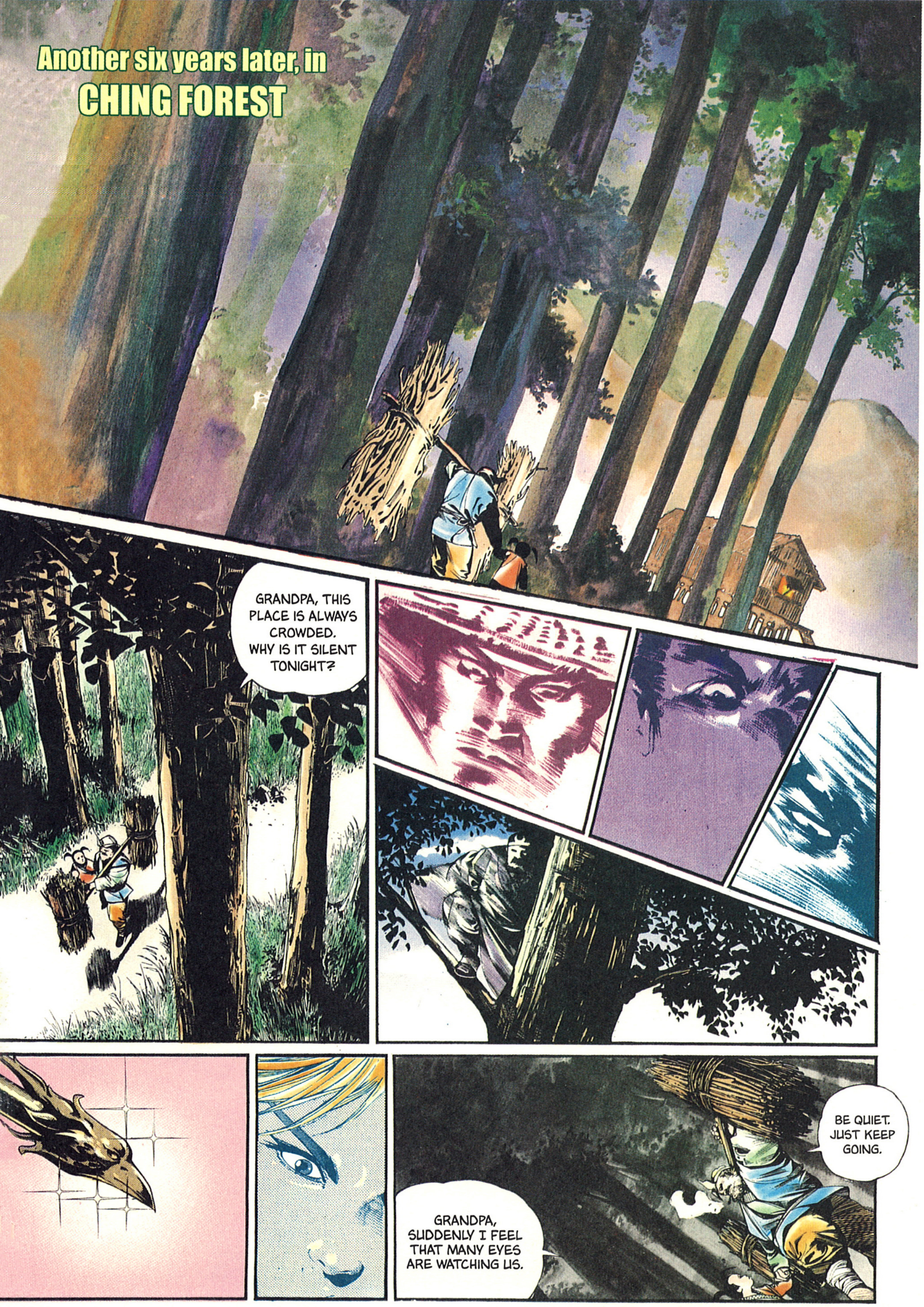
NIE-FONG (WIND) AND BU-JING-YUN (CLOUD) HAVE BOTH BECOME TREMENDOUS FIGHTERS.

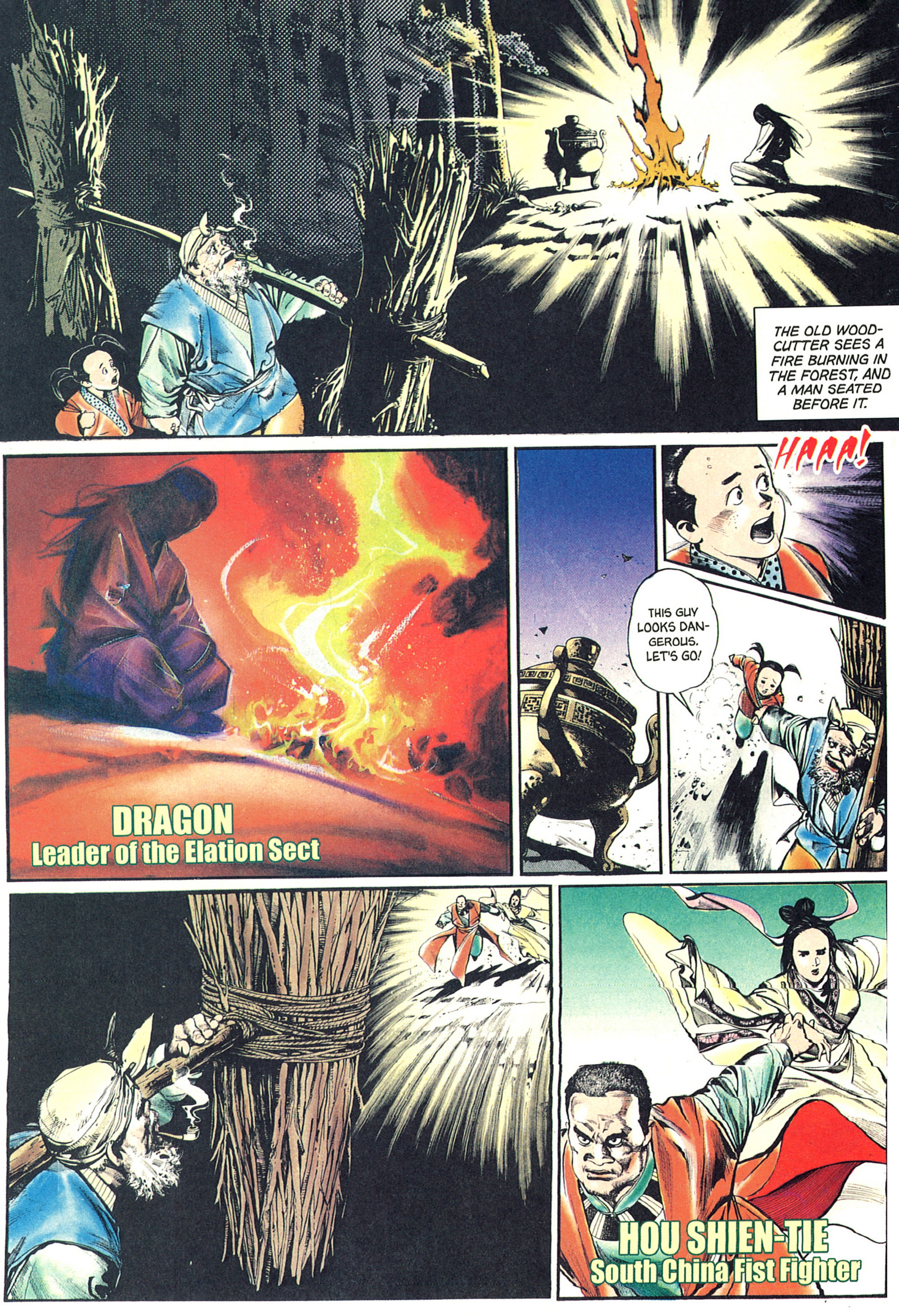


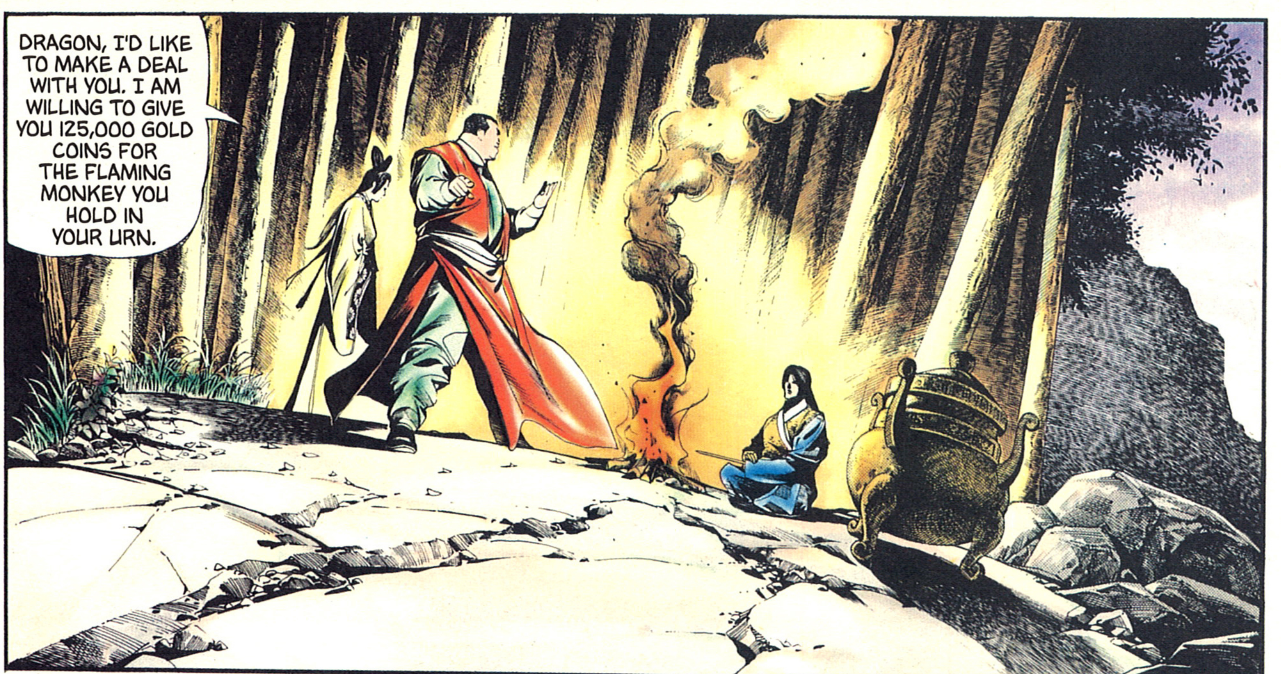

IN BOTH HEAVEN AND EARTH, I AM THE ONLY MASTER OF THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED RAPIDLY OVER A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AND NOW STANDS AT THE TOP OF THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD.
I HAVE THE MOST OUTSTANDING PEOPLE AND COMMAND THEIR UTMOST LOYALTY. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD BEYOND MY REACH NOW.
I AM UNIVERSALLY REVERED AND HAVE NEVER MET ANY SERIOUS OBSTACLES. NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN THREATEN MY POSITION NOW.
I FIRMLY BELIEVE IT!
BUT...
WHAT HAPPENED TODAY PROVES THAT I CAN STILL BE SURPRISED... IT SHOWS ME THAT NOT EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS AS IT SEEMS.
IN FRONT OF ME IS A BLEEDING HUMAN HEAD!
THE HEAD OF DUGU YIFANG!

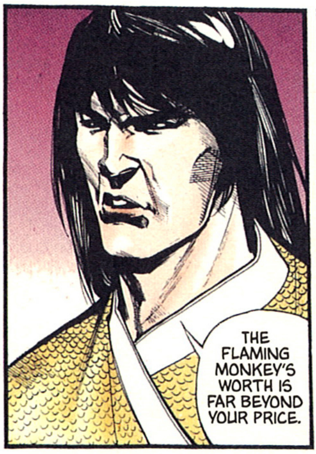

SEEING THE HEAD DIDN'T SURPRISE ME, BECAUSE...
... DUGU YIFANG GAVE ME CAUSE FOR WORRY. I MADE UP MY MIND TO PICK UP HIS HEAD... JUST LIKE PICKING A LYCHEE FRUIT FROM MY BACKYARD, WHERE I CAN HELP MYSELF ANYTIME I PLEASE.
WHAT SURPRISED ME WAS THE MAN IN FRONT OF MY DESK. HE WAS BLEEDING AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, BUT HIS EYES WERE SO DETERMINED... PIERCING LIKE IRON.
HE IS MY THIRD STUDENT - WIND, WHOM I SAVED FROM THE OCEAN SIX YEARS AGO.
HE IS NOT AS INTELLIGENT AS FROST.
... AND AS FOR MARTIAL ARTS, HE IS NO MATCH FOR SECOND DISCIPLE CLOUD.
AT FIRST GLANCE, HE IS NOT THE MOST TALENTED OF MY THREE DISCIPLES.

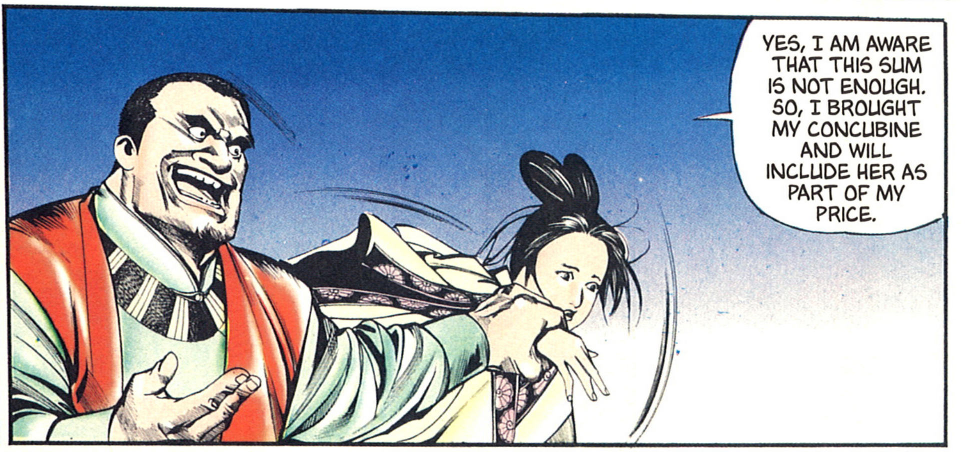

BUT... HE MANAGED TO TAKE DUGU'S HEAD, AND QUIETLY PLACE IT ON MY DESK. QUITE REMARKABLE INDEED.
HIS TALENT IS SURELY BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING. I NOW HAVE CAUSE TO REEVALUATE HIM, AND EXAMINE MY OWN PRESUMPTIONS AS WELL.
THIS IS WHAT AMAZE ME MOST. I BELIEVED I KNEW HIM VER WELL... AND YE SOMEHOW HE KILLED A MAN WHOSE SKILLS IN THE MARTIA ARTS ARE TEN TIMES THOSE OF HIS.

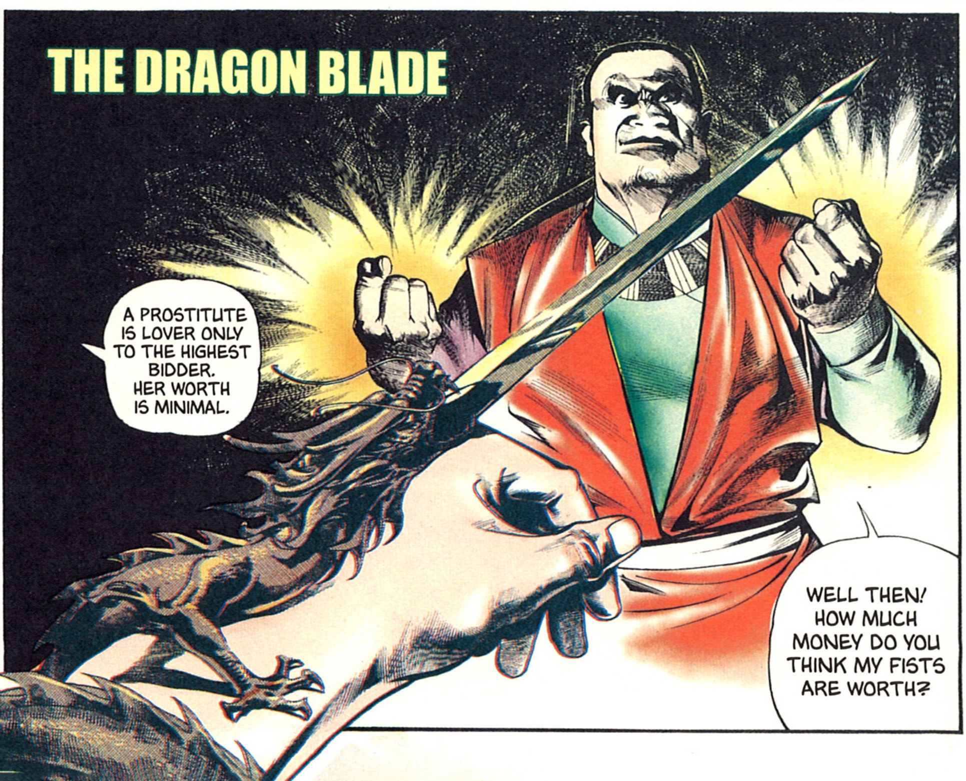

Another six years later, in
CHING FOREST
GRANDPA, THIS PLACE IS ALWAYS CROWDED. WHY IS IT SILENT TONIGHT?
GRANDPA, SUDDENLY I FEEL THAT MANY EYES ARE WATCHING US.
BE QUIET. JUST KEEP GOING.

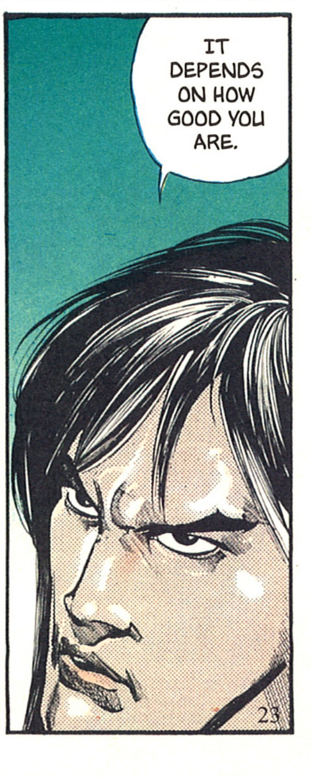

THE OLD WOODCUTTER SEES A FIRE BURNING IN THE FOREST, AND A MAN SEATED BEFORE IT.
DRAGON
Leader of the Elation Sect
HAAA!
THIS GUY LOOKS DANGEROUS. LET'S GO!
HOU SHIEN-TIE
South China Fist Fighter

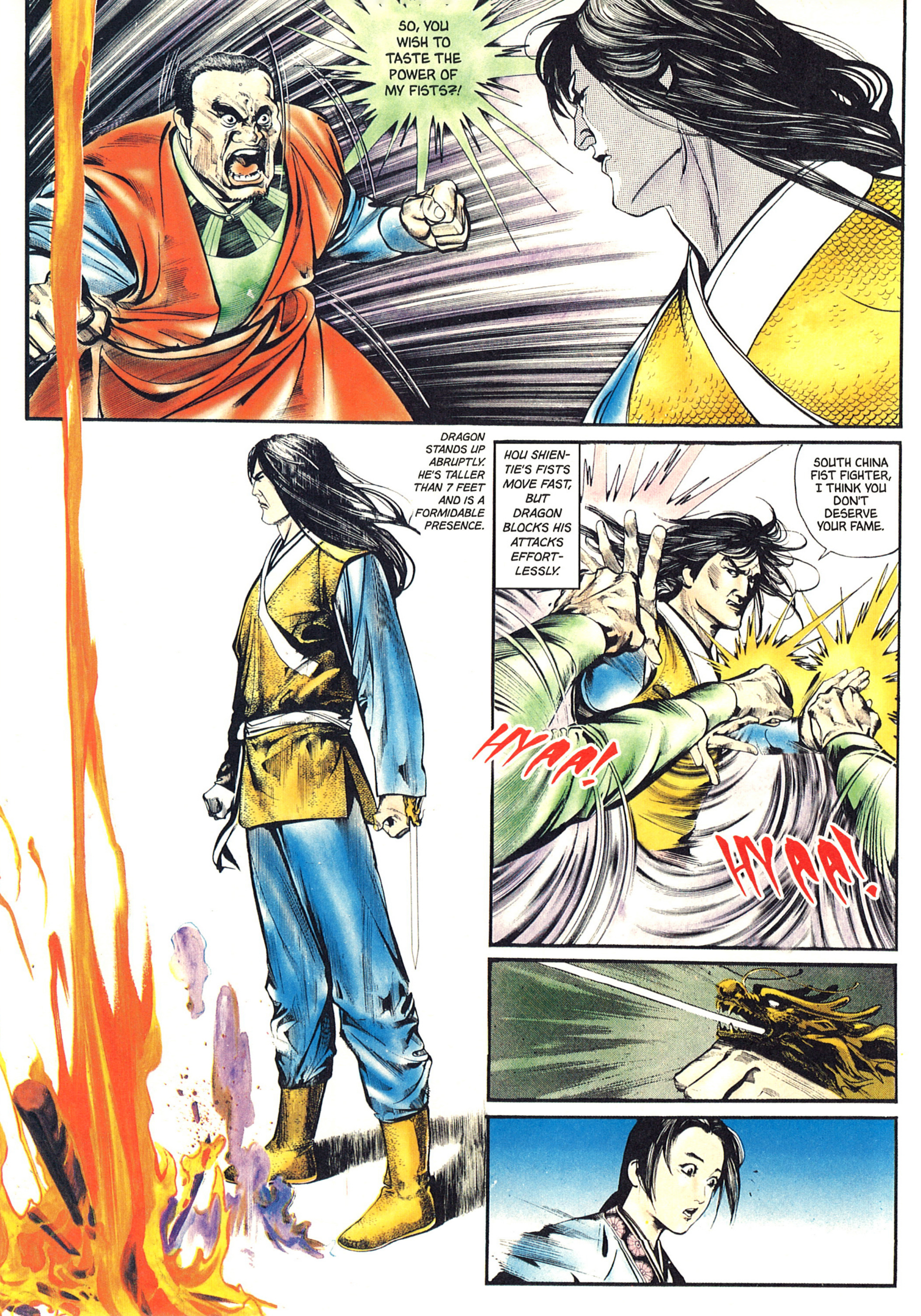

DRAGON, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU. I AM WILLING TO GIVE YOU 125,000 GOLD COINS FOR THE FLAMING MONKEY YOU HOLD IN YOUR URN.

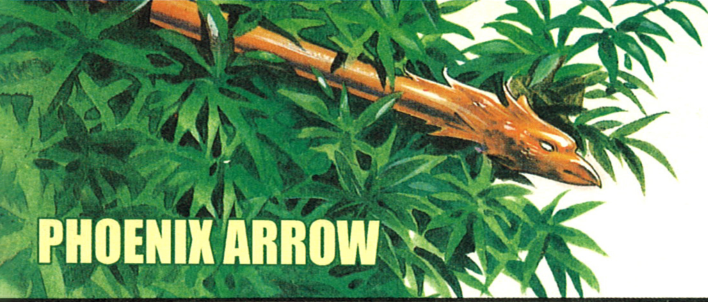

THE FLAMING MONKEY'S WORTH IS FAR BEYOND YOUR PRICE.


YES, I AM AWARE THAT THIS SUM IS NOT ENOUGH. SO, I BROUGHT MY CONCUBINE AND WILL INCLUDE HER AS PART OF MY PRICE.


THE DRAGON BLADE
A PROSTITUTE IS LOVER ONLY TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. HER WORTH IS MINIMAL.
WELL THEN! HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU THINK MY FISTS ARE WORTH?

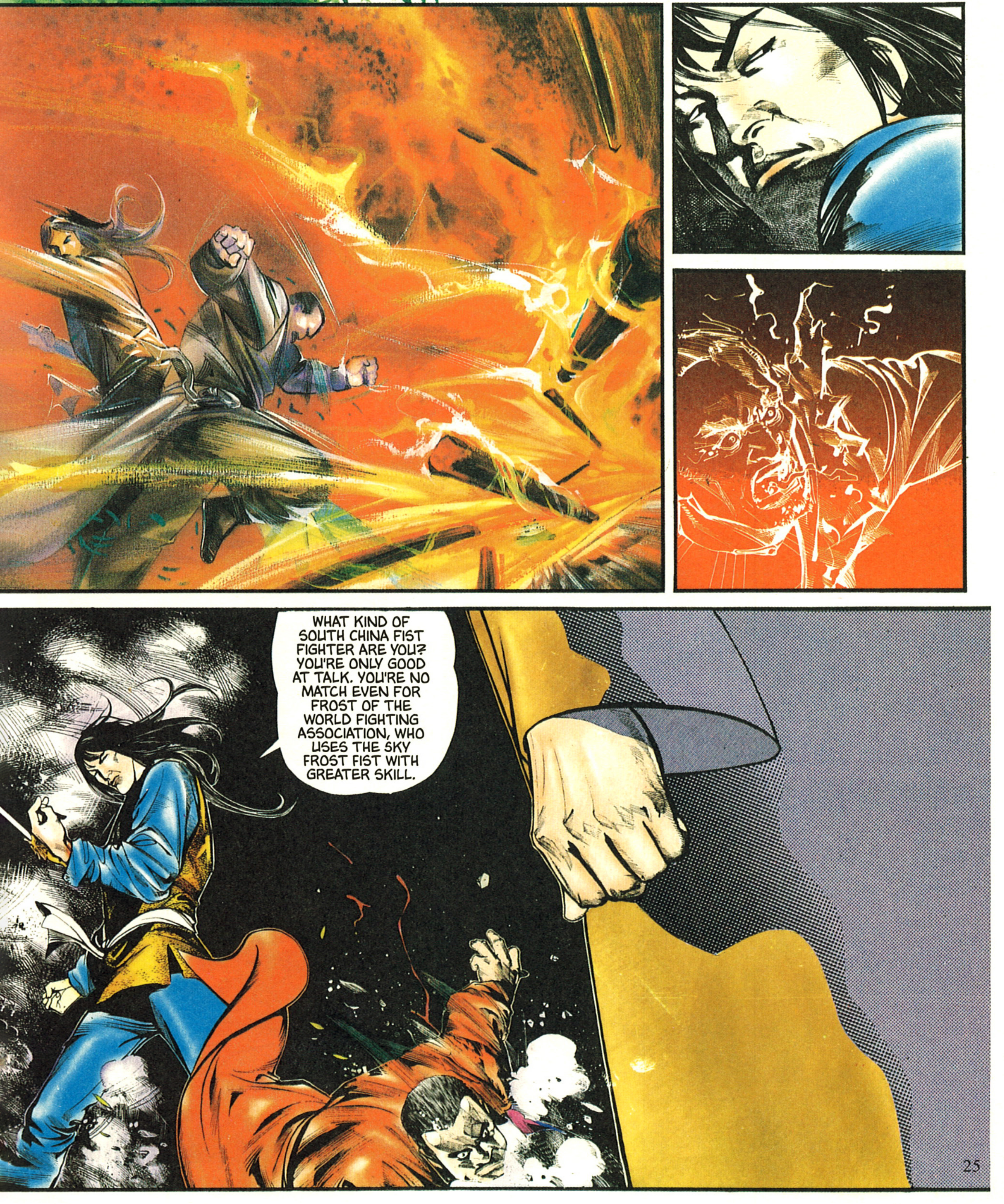

IT DEPENDS ON HOW GOOD YOU ARE.

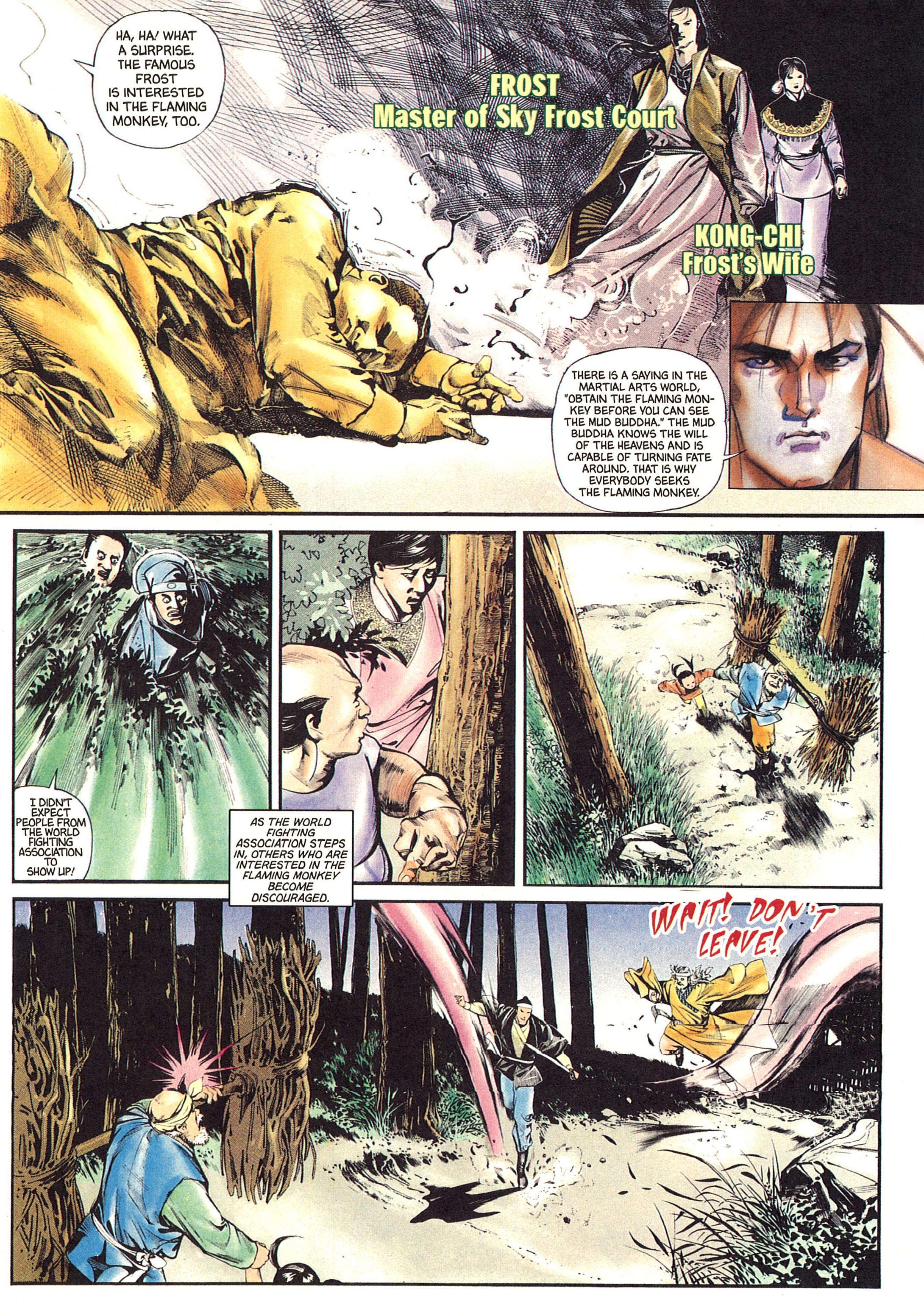

SO, YOU WISH TO TASTE THE POWER OF MY FISTS?!
DRAGON STANDS UP ABRUPTLY. HE'S TALLER THAN 7 FEET AND IS A FORMIDABLE PRESENCE.
HOU SHIEN-TIE'S FISTS MOVE FAST, BUT DRAGON BLOCKS HIS ATTACKS EFFORTLESSLY.
SOUTH CHINA FIST FIGHTER, I THINK YOU DON'T DESERVE YOUR FAME.
HYAA!
HYAA!

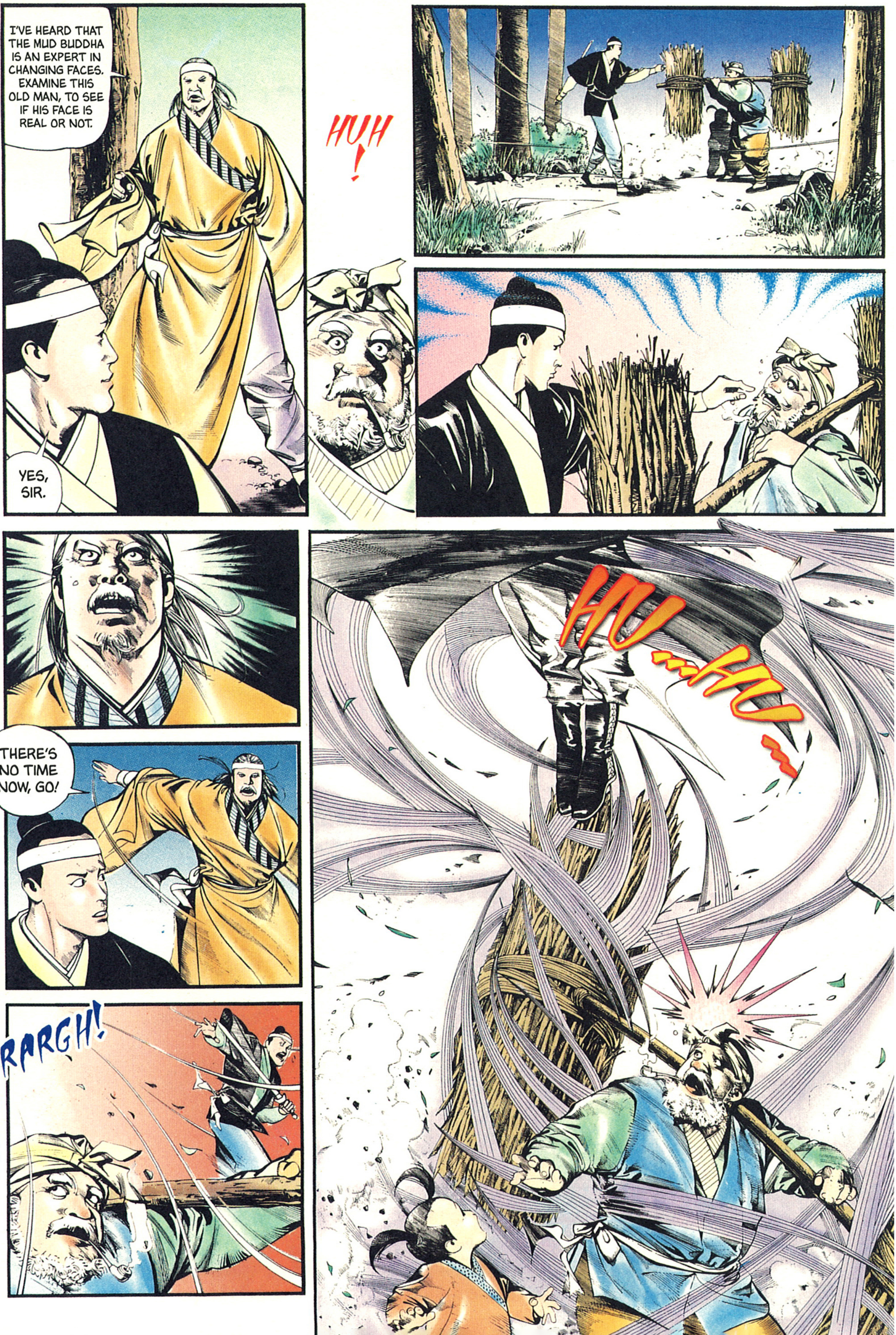


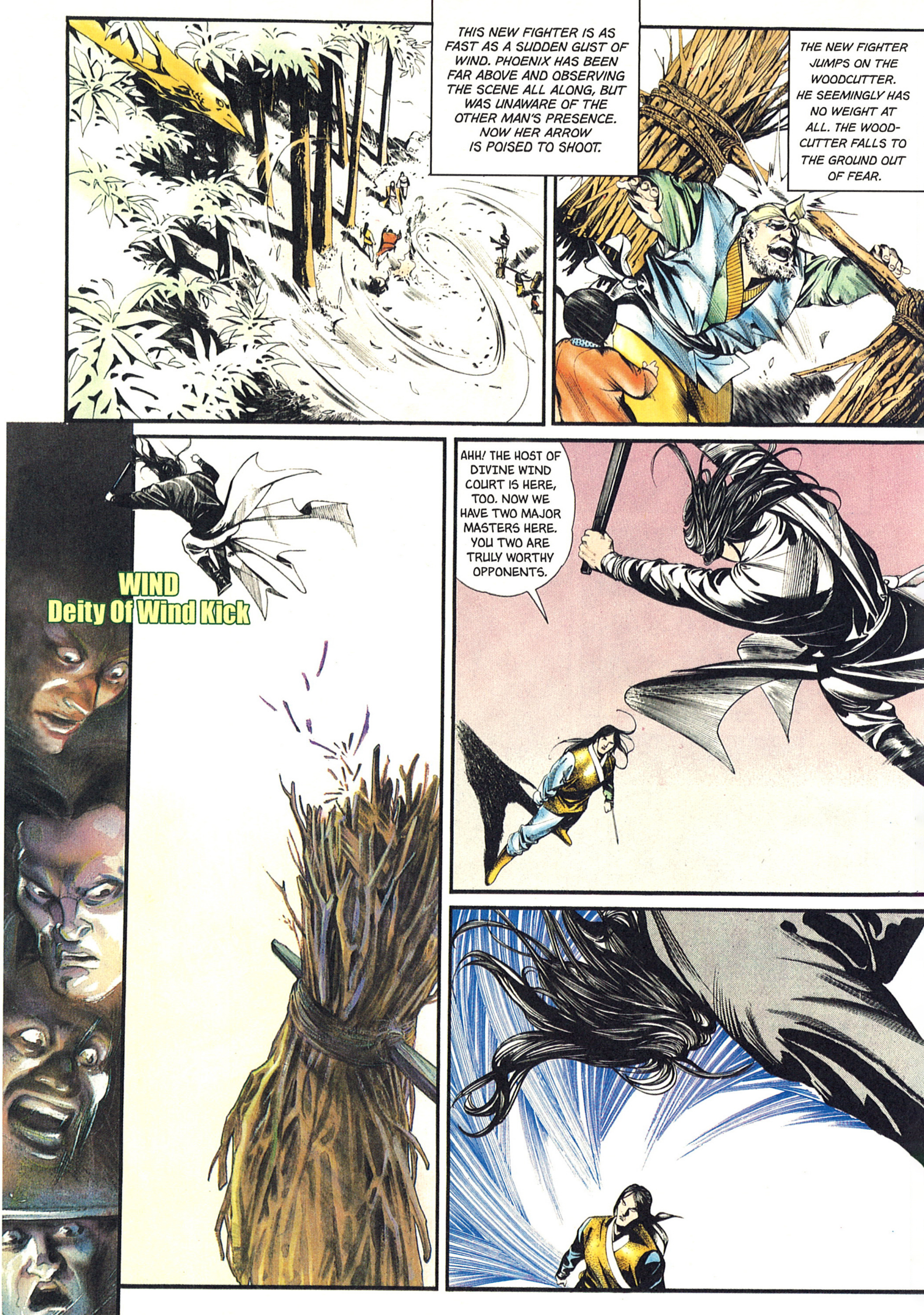
PHOENIX ARROW

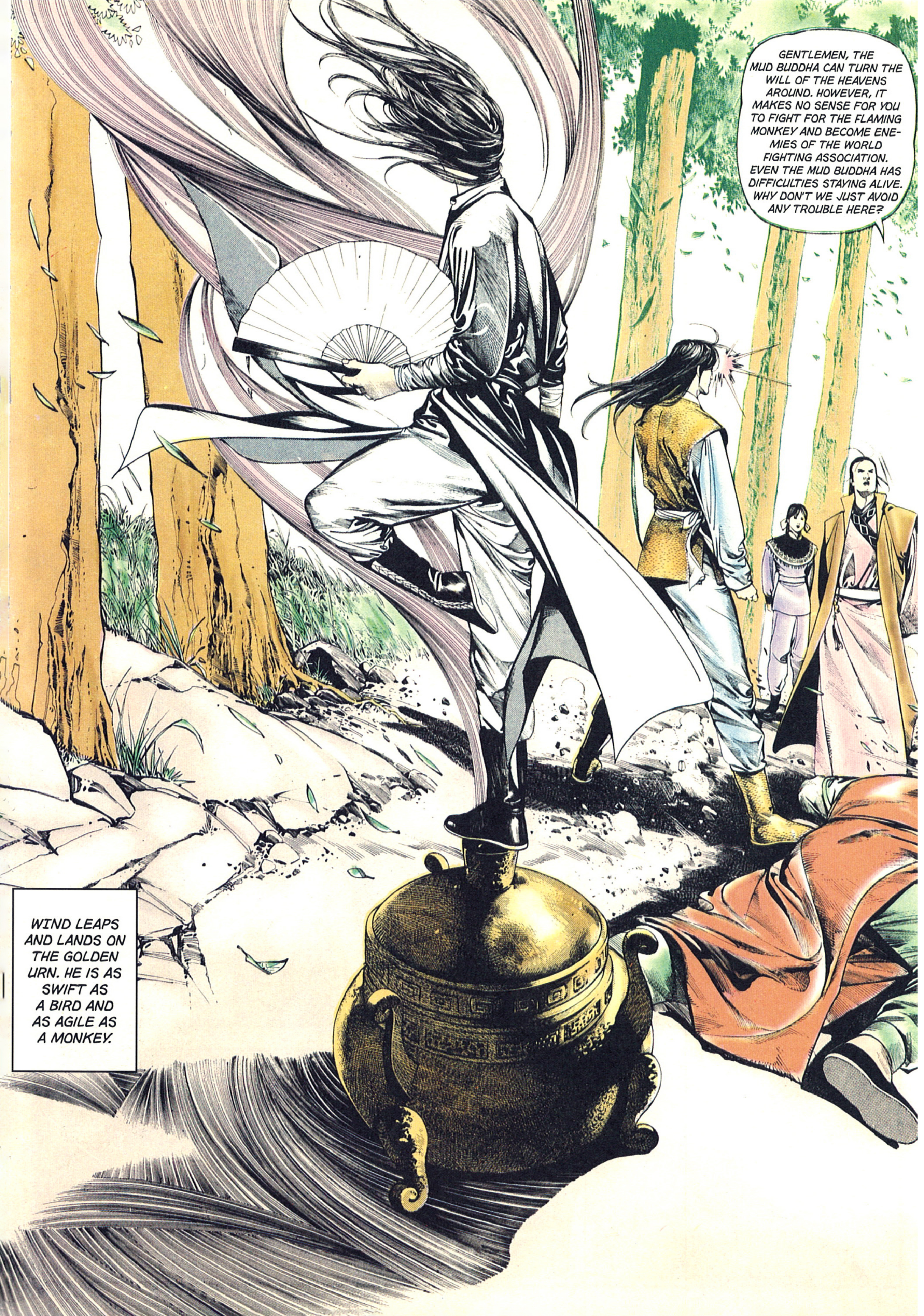
THE FIERCE FIGHT CONTINUES IN THE FOREST. THERE IS A SHARP ARROWHEAD HIDDEN ON THE EDGE OF THE SCENE, AIMED AT DRAGON. NO ONE KNOWS WHOSE HAND CONTROLS ITS DEADLY POINT...

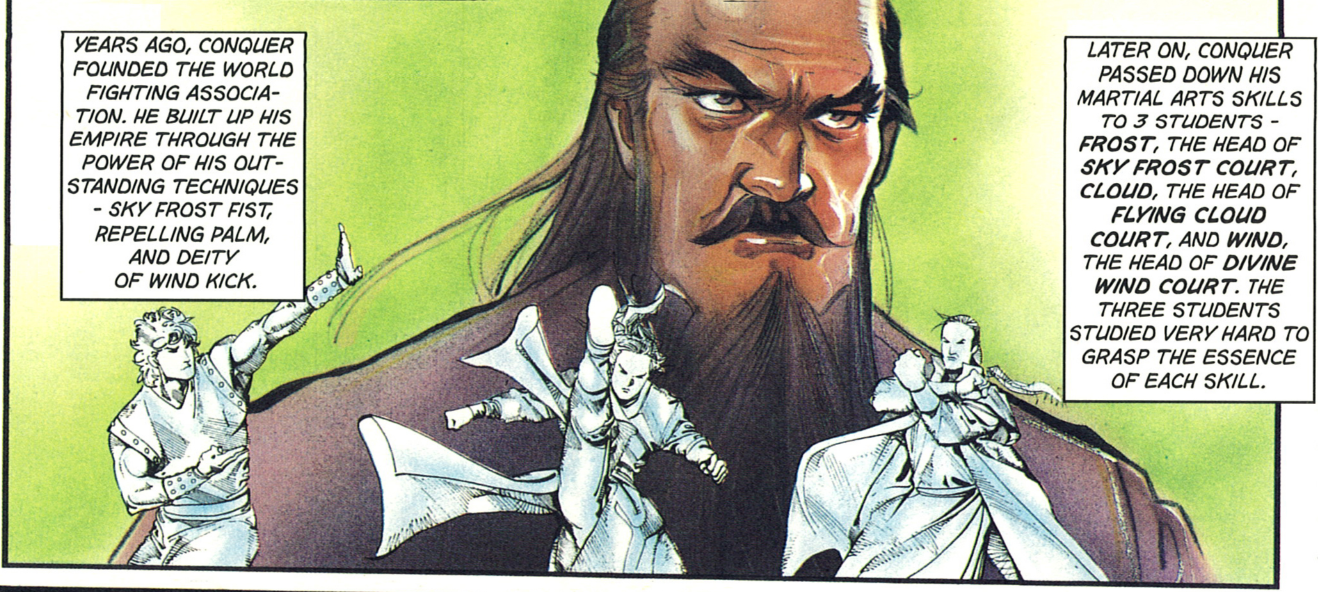

WHAT KIND OF SOUTH CHINA FIST FIGHTER ARE YOU? YOU'RE ONLY GOOD AT TALK. YOU'RE NO MATCH EVEN FOR FROST OF THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION, WHO USES THE SKY FROST FIST WITH GREATER SKILL.

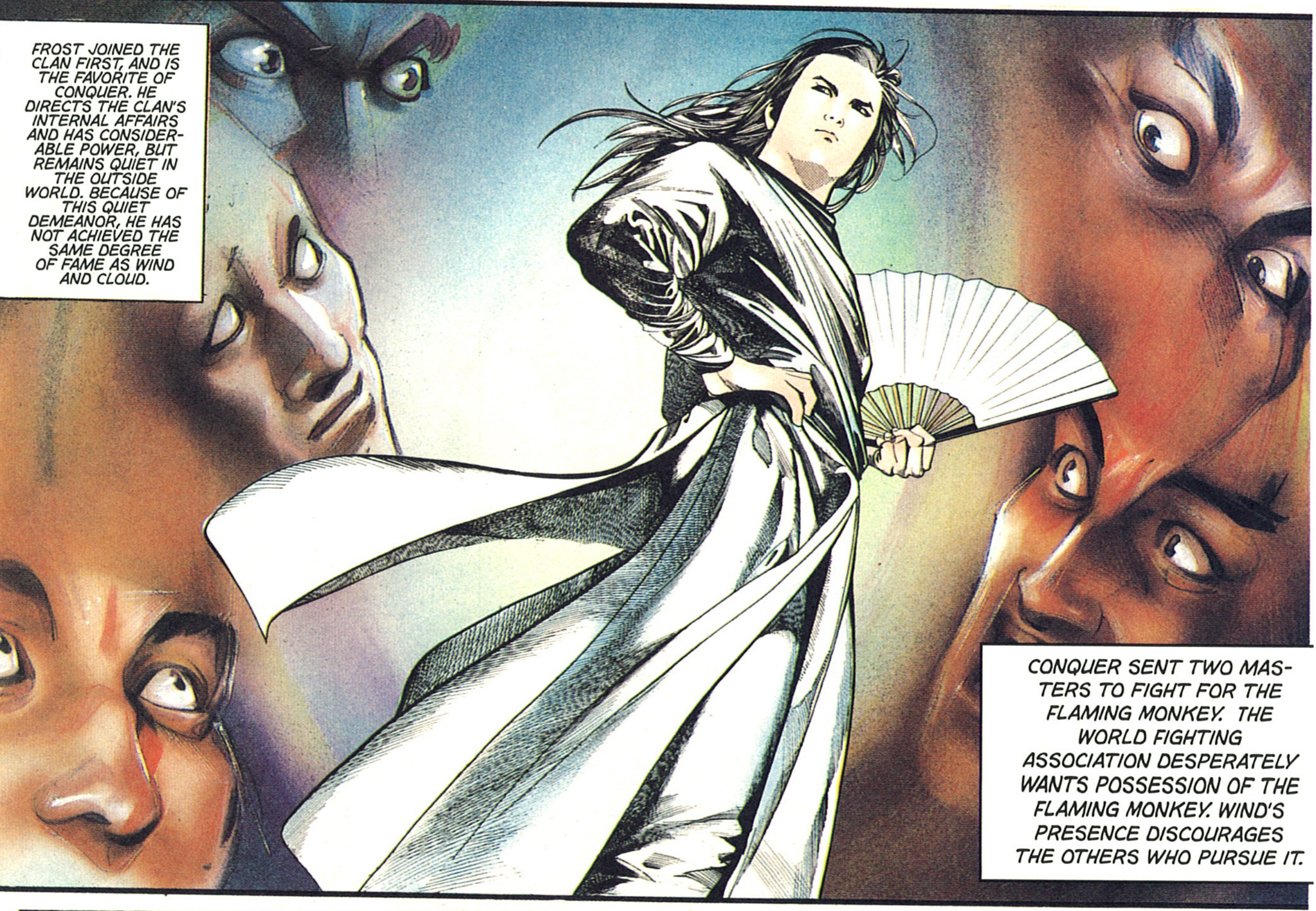

HA, HA! WHAT A SURPRISE. THE FAMOUS FROST IS INTERESTED IN THE FLAMING MONKEY, TOO.
FROST
Master of Sky Frost Court
KONG-CHI
Frost's Wife
THERE IS A SAYING IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD, "OBTAIN THE FLAMING MONKEY BEFORE YOU CAN SEE THE MUD BUDDHA." THE MUD BUDDHA KNOWS THE WILL OF THE HEAVENS AND IS CAPABLE OF TURNING FATE AROUND. THAT IS WHY EVERYBODY SEEKS THE FLAMING MONKEY.
I DIDN'T EXPECT PEOPLE FROM THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION TO SHOW UP!
AS THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION STEPS IN, OTHERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE FLAMING MONKEY BECOME DISCOURAGED.
WAIT! DON'T LEAVE!

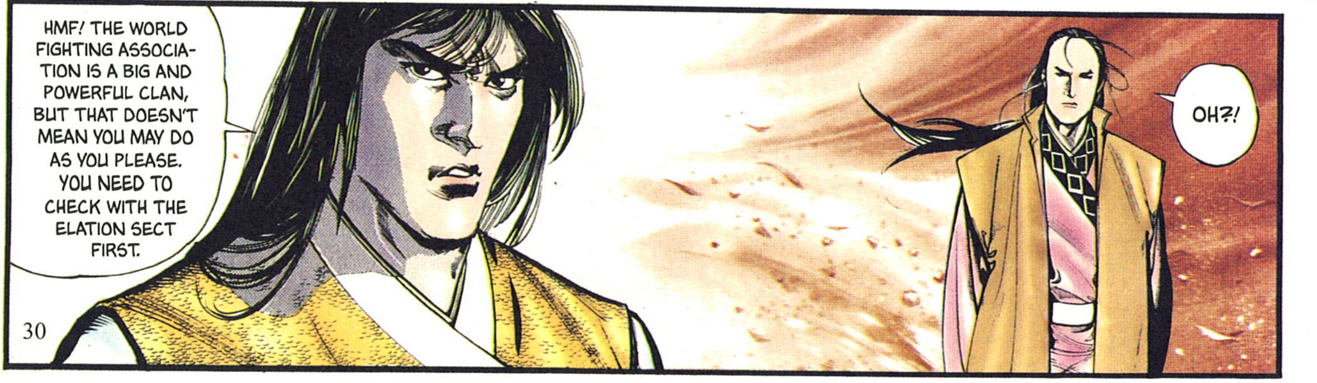

I'VE HEARD THAT THE MUD BUDDHA IS AN EXPERT IN CHANGING FACES. EXAMINE THIS OLD MAN, TO SEE IF HIS FACE IS REAL OR NOT.
YES, SIR.
HUH!
THERE'S NO TIME NOW, GO!
RARGH!
HU...HU...

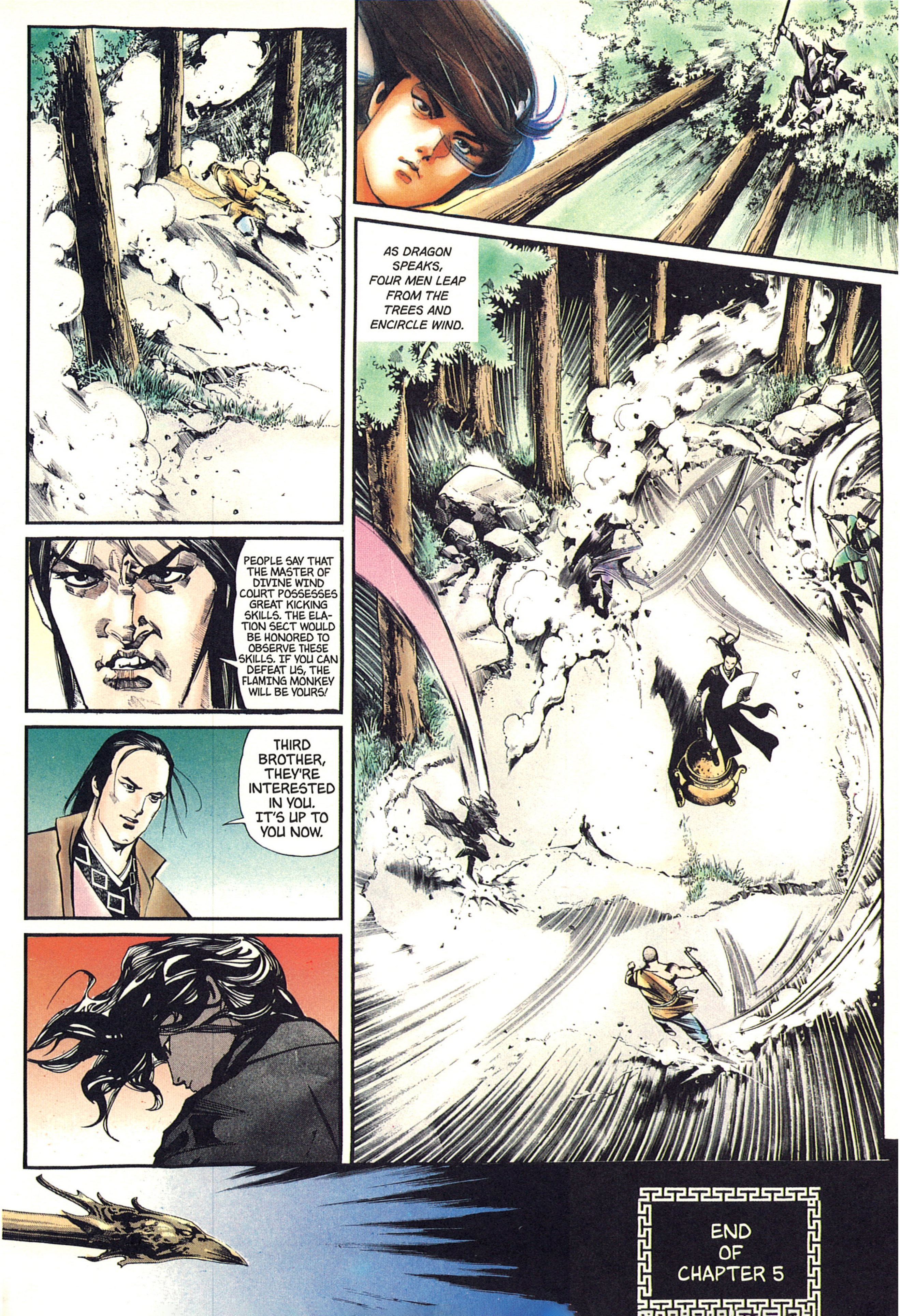

THIS NEW FIGHTER IS AS FAST AS A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND. PHOENIX HAS BEEN FAR ABOVE AND OBSERVING THE SCENE ALL ALONG, BUT WAS UNAWARE OF THE OTHER MAN'S PRESENCE. NOW HER ARROW IS POISED TO SHOOT.
THE NEW FIGHTER JUMPS ON THE WOODCUTTER. HE SEEMINGLY HAS NO WEIGHT AT ALL. THE WOODCUTTER FALLS TO THE GROUND OUT OF FEAR.
WIND
Deity Of Wind Kick
AHH! THE HOST OF DIVINE WIND COURT IS HERE, TOO. NOW WE HAVE TWO MAJOR MASTERS HERE. YOU TWO ARE TRULY WORTHY OPPONENTS.


GENTLEMEN, THE MUD BUDDHA CAN TURN THE WILL OF THE HEAVENS AROUND. HOWEVER, IT MAKES NO SENSE FOR YOU TO FIGHT FOR THE FLAMING MONKEY AND BECOME ENEMIES OF THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION. EVEN THE MUD BUDDHA HAS DIFFICULTIES STAYING ALIVE. WHY DON'T WE JUST AVOID ANY TROUBLE HERE?
WIND LEAPS AND LANDS ON THE GOLDEN URN. HE IS AS SWIFT AS A BIRD AND AS AGILE AS A MONKEY.

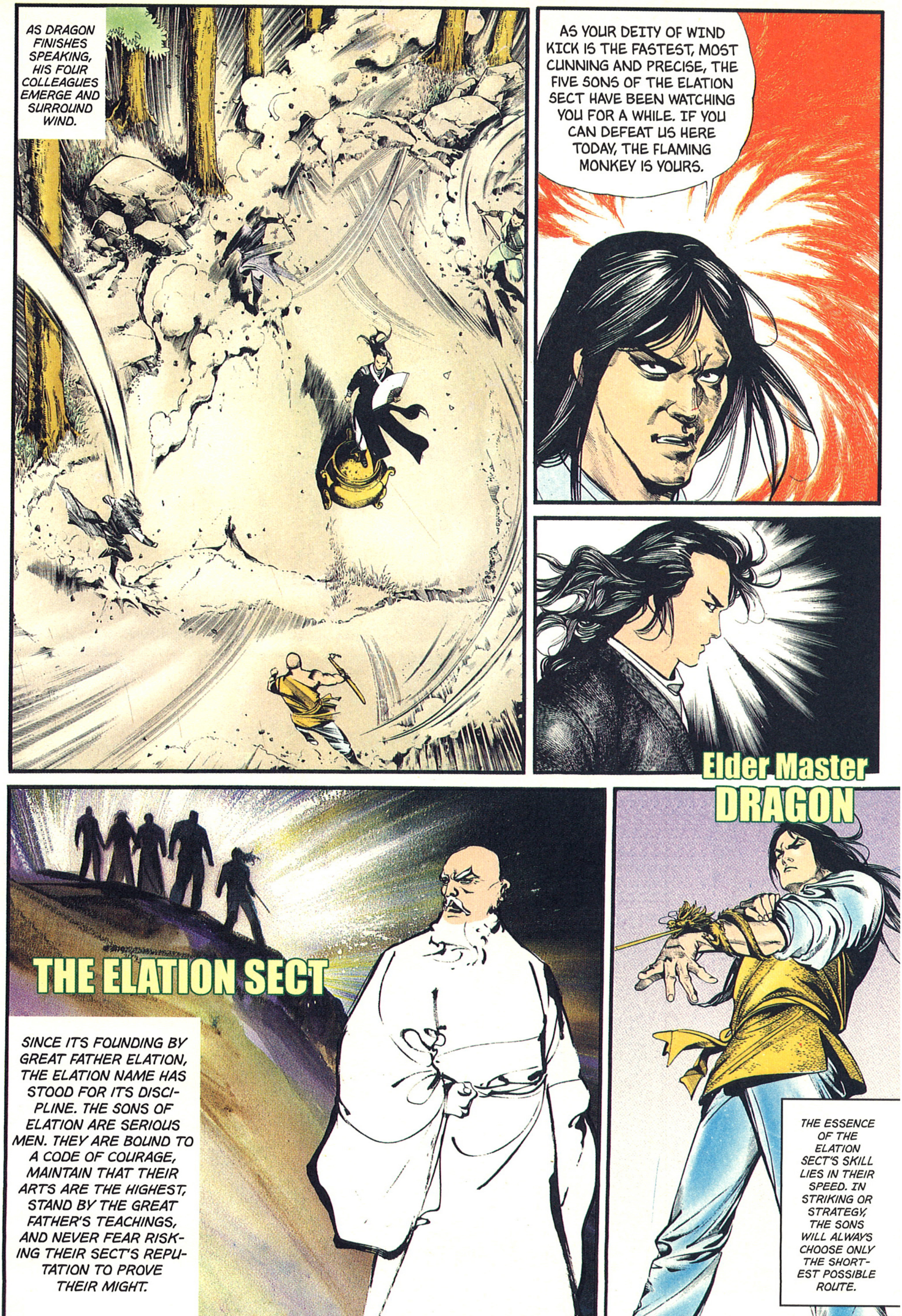

YEARS AGO, CONQUER FOUNDED THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION. HE BUILT UP HIS EMPIRE THROUGH THE POWER OF HIS OUTSTANDING TECHNIQUES - SKY FROST FIST, REPELLING PALM, AND DEITY OF WIND KICK.
LATER ON, CONQUER PASSED DOWN HIS MARTIAL ARTS SKILLS TO 3 STUDENTS - **FROST**, THE HEAD OF **SKY FROST COURT**, **CLOUD**, THE HEAD OF **FLYING CLOUD COURT**, AND **WIND**, THE HEAD OF **DIVINE WIND COURT**. THE THREE STUDENTS STUDIED VERY HARD TO GRASP THE ESSENCE OF EACH SKILL.

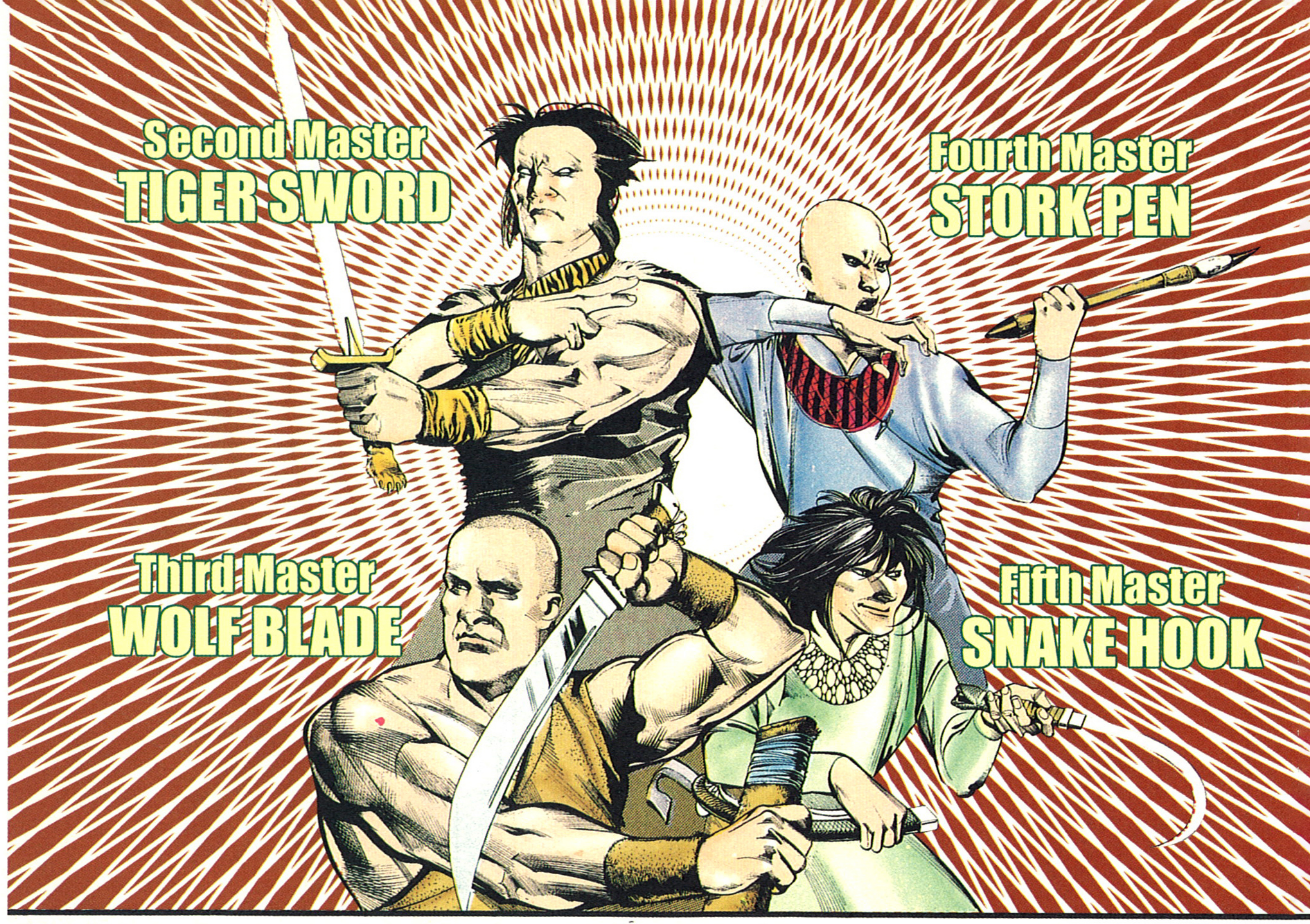

FROST JOINED THE CLAN FIRST, AND IS THE FAVORITE OF CONQUER. HE DIRECTS THE CLAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAS CONSIDERABLE POWER, BUT REMAINS QUIET IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD. BECAUSE OF THIS QUIET DEMEANOR, HE HAS NOT ACHIEVED THE SAME DEGREE OF FAME AS WIND AND CLOUD.
CONQUER SENT TWO MASTERS TO FIGHT FOR THE FLAMING MONKEY. THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION DESPERATELY WANTS POSSESSION OF THE FLAMING MONKEY. WIND'S PRESENCE DISCOURAGES THE OTHERS WHO PURSUE IT.

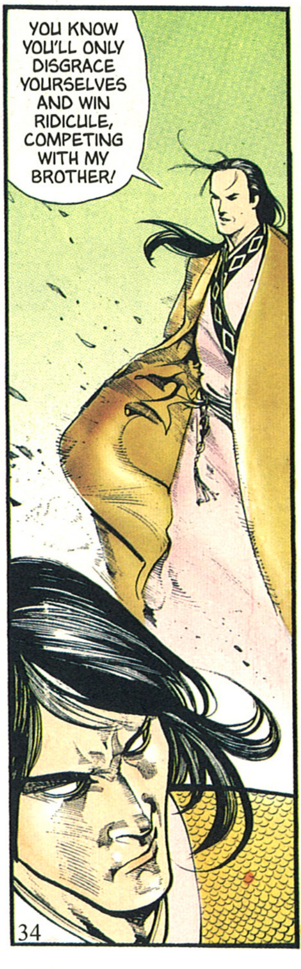

HMF! THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION IS A BIG AND POWERFUL CLAN, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU MAY DO AS YOU PLEASE. YOU NEED TO CHECK WITH THE ELATION SECT FIRST.
OH?!

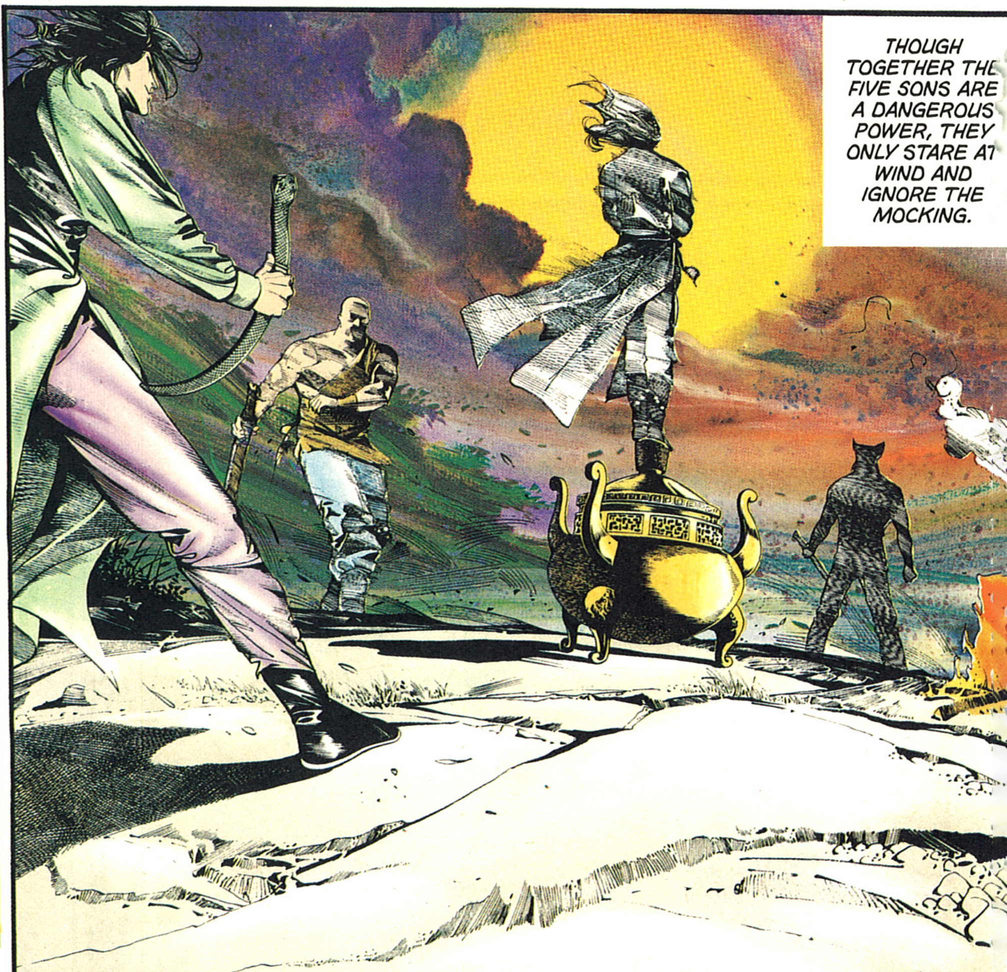

PEOPLE SAY THAT THE MASTER OF DIVINE WIND COURT POSSESSES GREAT KICKING SKILLS. THE ELATION SECT WOULD BE HONORED TO OBSERVE THESE SKILLS. IF YOU CAN DEFEAT US, THE FLAMING MONKEY WILL BE YOURS!
THIRD BROTHER, THEY'RE INTERESTED IN YOU. IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
AS DRAGON SPEAKS, FOUR MEN LEAP FROM THE TREES AND ENCIRCLE WIND.
END OF CHAPTER 5

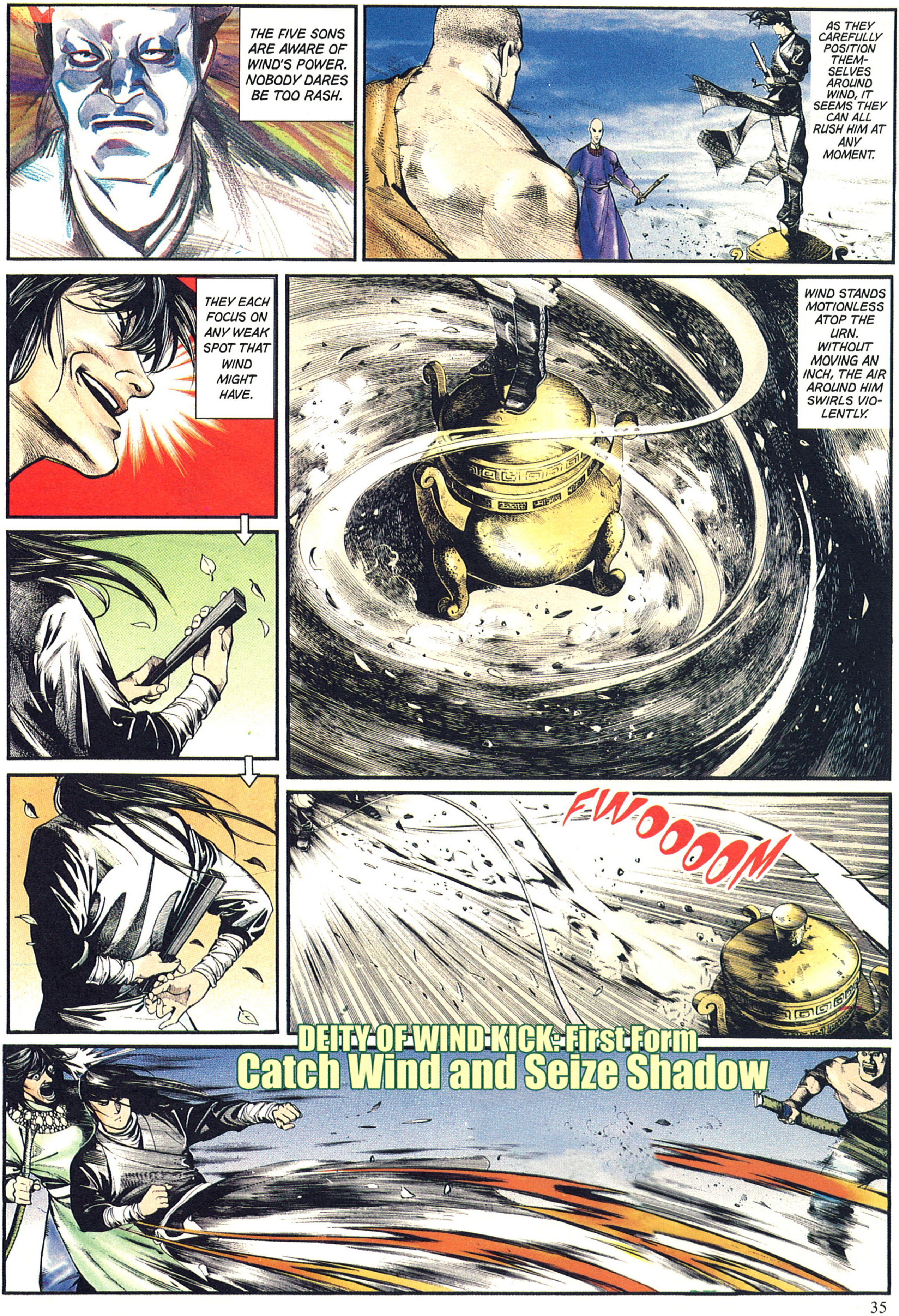
Chapter 6: Swifter Than Blade Or Arrow

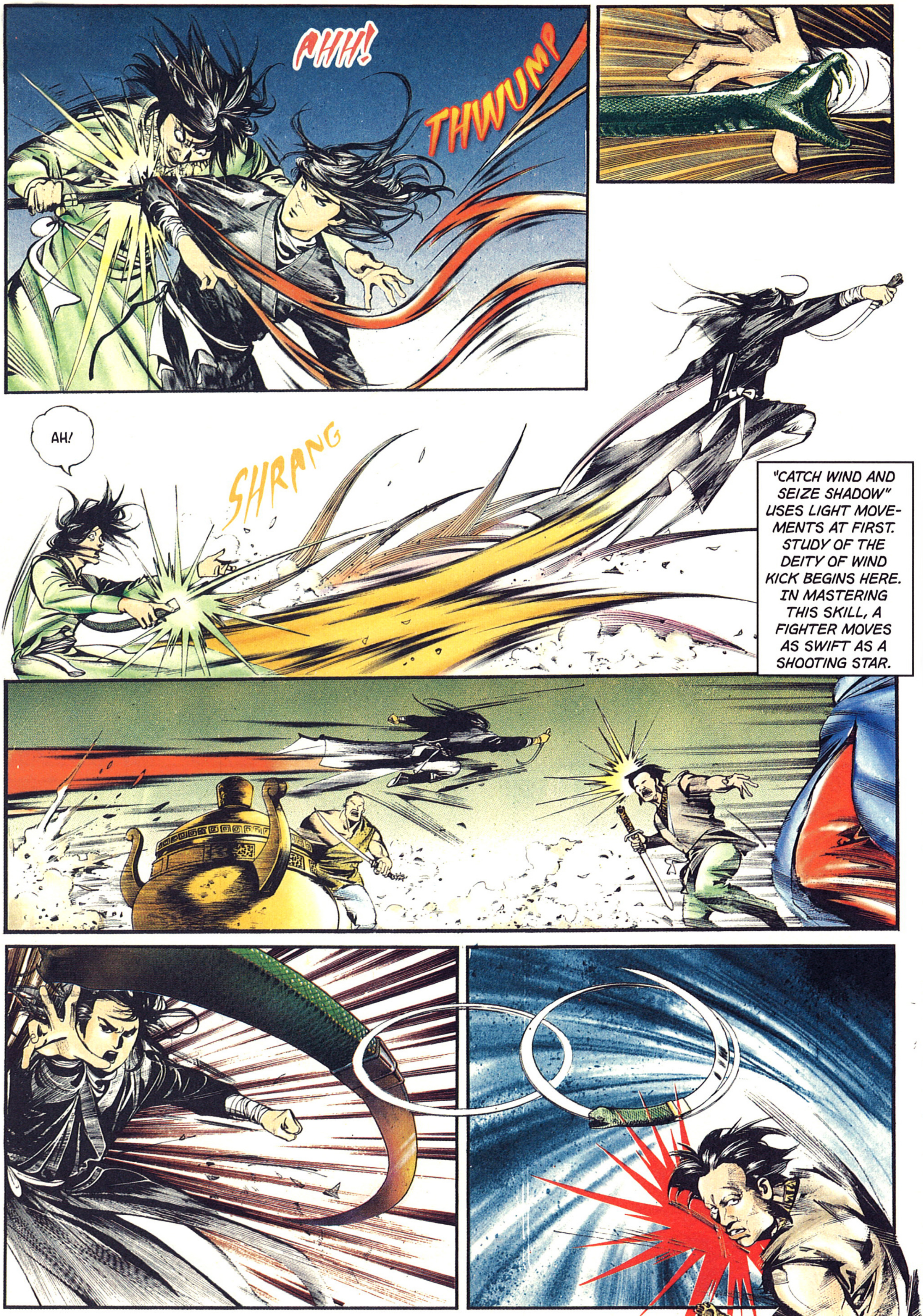

AS DRAGON FINISHES SPEAKING, HIS FOUR COLLEAGUES EMERGE AND SURROUND WIND.
AS YOUR DEITY OF WIND KICK IS THE FASTEST, MOST CUNNING AND PRECISE, THE FIVE SONS OF THE ELATION SECT HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR A WHILE. IF YOU CAN DEFEAT US HERE TODAY, THE FLAMING MONKEY IS YOURS.
Elder Master DRAGON
THE ELATION SECT
SINCE ITS FOUNDING BY GREAT FATHER ELATION, THE ELATION NAME HAS STOOD FOR ITS DISCIPLINE. THE SONS OF ELATION ARE SERIOUS MEN. THEY ARE BOUND TO A CODE OF COURAGE, MAINTAIN THAT THEIR ARTS ARE THE HIGHEST, STAND BY THE GREAT FATHER'S TEACHINGS, AND NEVER FEAR RISKING THEIR SECT'S REPUTATION TO PROVE THEIR MIGHT.
THE ESSENCE OF THE ELATION SECT'S SKILL LIES IN THEIR SPEED. IN STRIKING OR STRATEGY, THE SONS WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE ONLY THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE ROUTE.

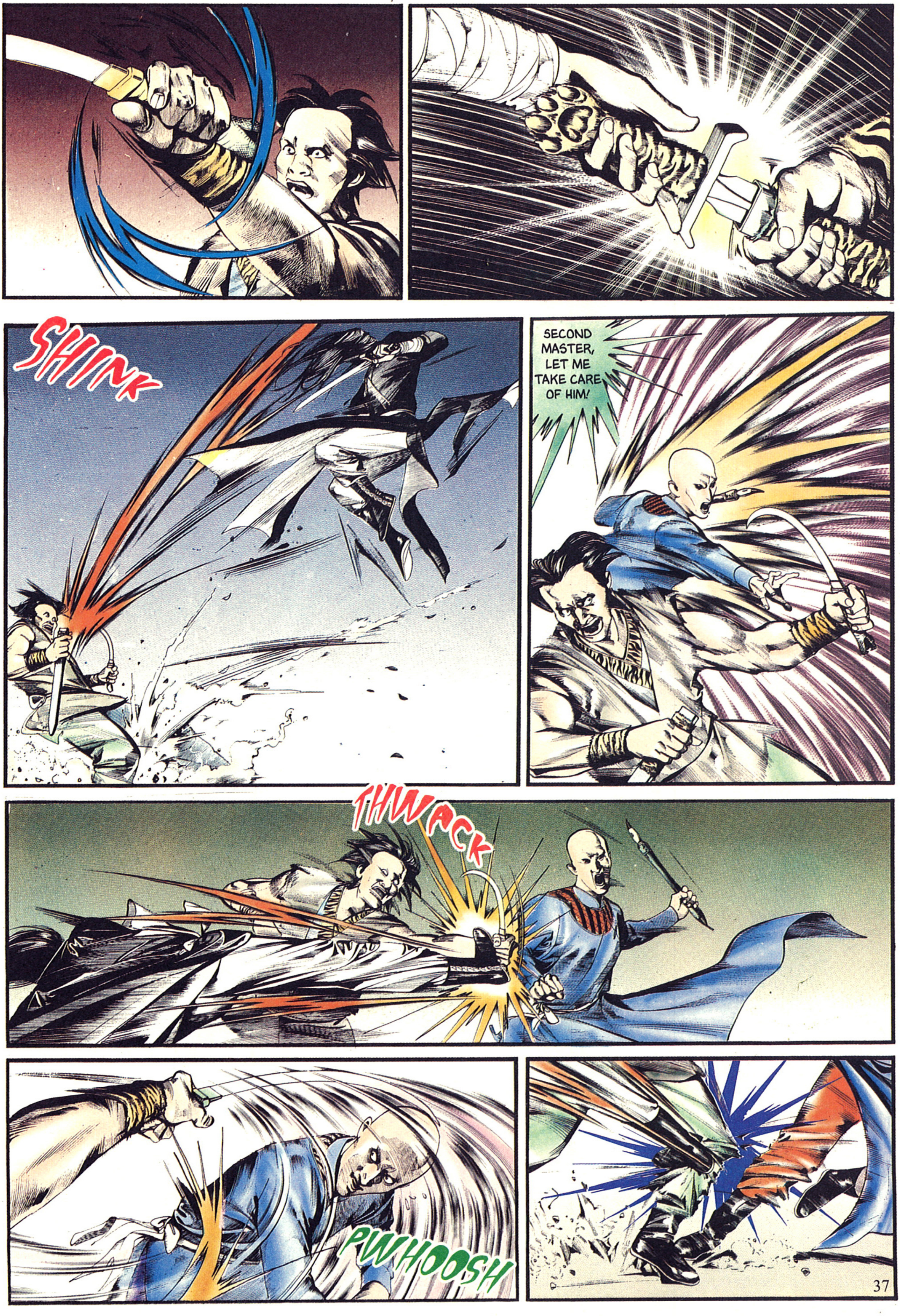

Second Master
TIGER SWORD
Fourth Master
STORK PEN
Third Master
WOLF BLADE
Fifth Master
SNAKE HOOK

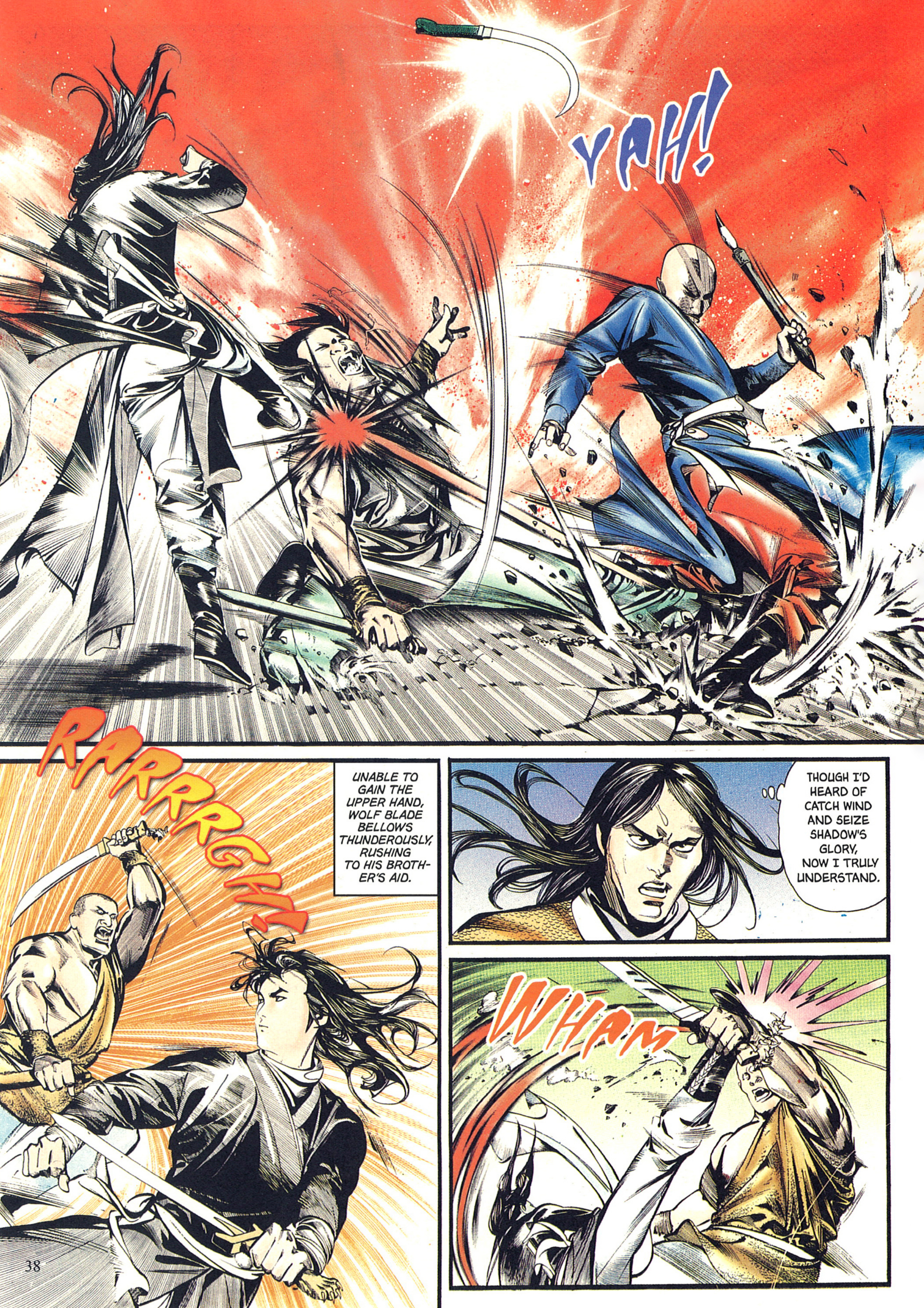

YOU KNOW YOU'LL ONLY DISGRACE YOURSELVES AND WIN RIDICULE, COMPETING WITH MY BROTHER!

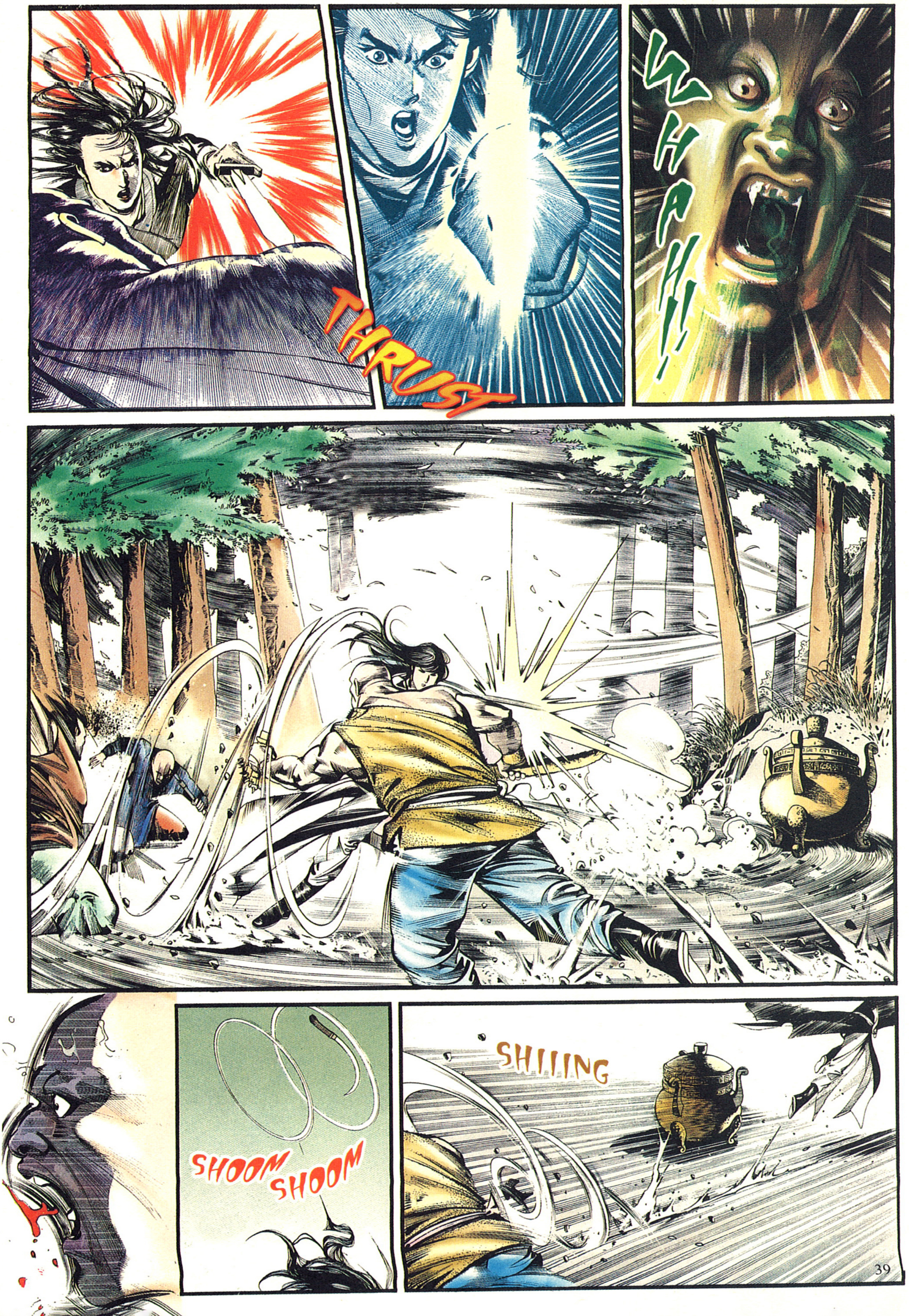

THOUGH TOGETHER THE FIVE SONS ARE A DANGEROUS POWER, THEY ONLY STARE AT WIND AND IGNORE THE MOCKING.

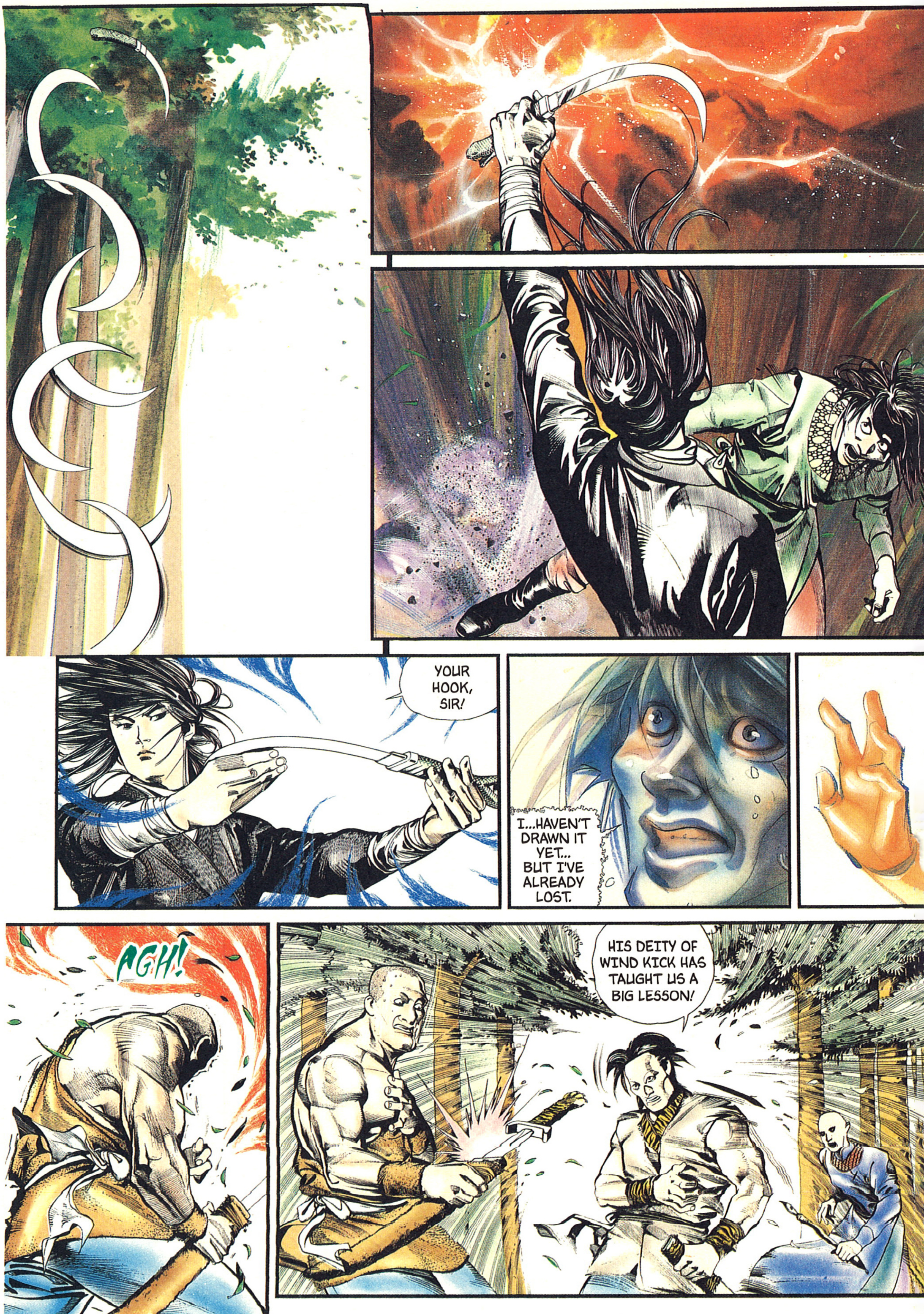

THE FIVE SONS ARE AWARE OF WIND'S POWER. NOBODY DARES BE TOO RASH.
AS THEY CAREFULLY POSITION THEMSELVES AROUND WIND, IT SEEMS THEY CAN ALL RUSH HIM AT ANY MOMENT.
THEY EACH FOCUS ON ANY WEAK SPOT THAT WIND MIGHT HAVE.
WIND STANDS MOTIONLESS ATOP THE URN. WITHOUT MOVING AN INCH, THE AIR AROUND HIM SWIRLS VIOLENTLY.
FWOOOOM
DEITY OF WIND KICK: First Form
Catch Wind and Seize Shadow

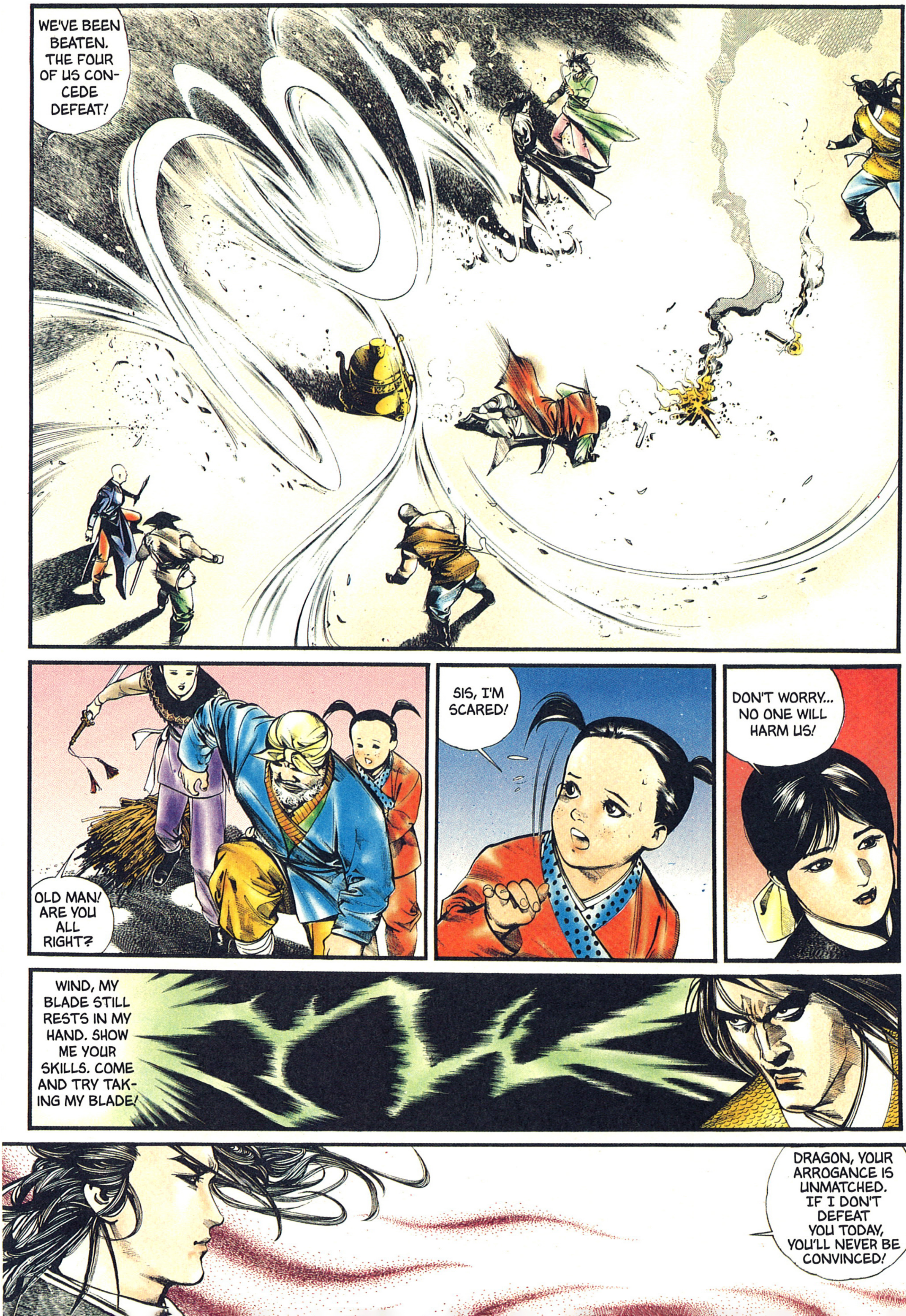

AHH!
THWUMP
AH!
SHRANG
"CATCH WIND AND SEIZE SHADOW" USES LIGHT MOVEMENTS AT FIRST. STUDY OF THE DEITY OF WIND KICK BEGINS HERE. IN MASTERING THIS SKILL, A FIGHTER MOVES AS SWIFT AS A SHOOTING STAR.

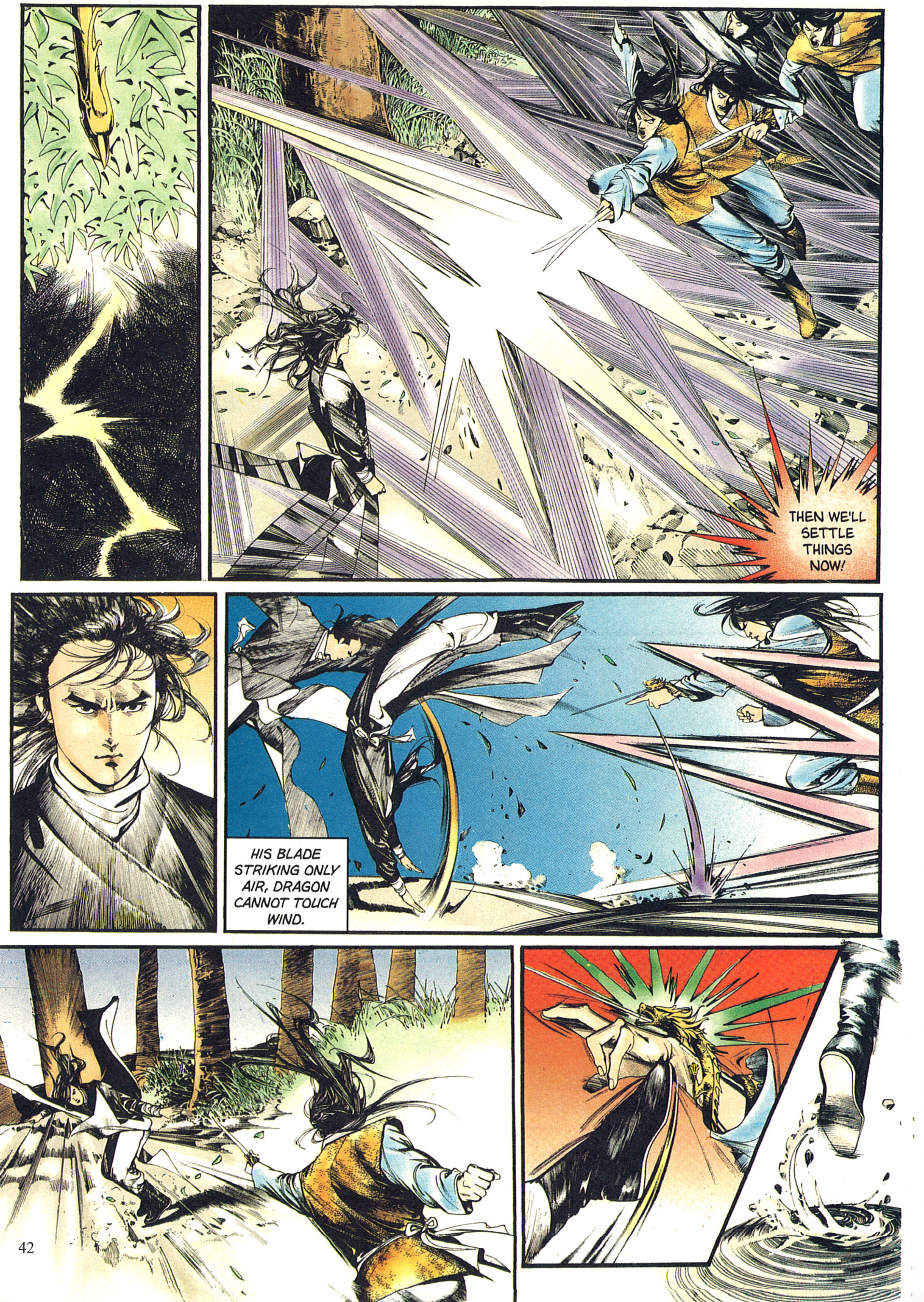

SHINK
SECOND MASTER, LET ME TAKE CARE OF HIM!
THWACK
PWHOOSH

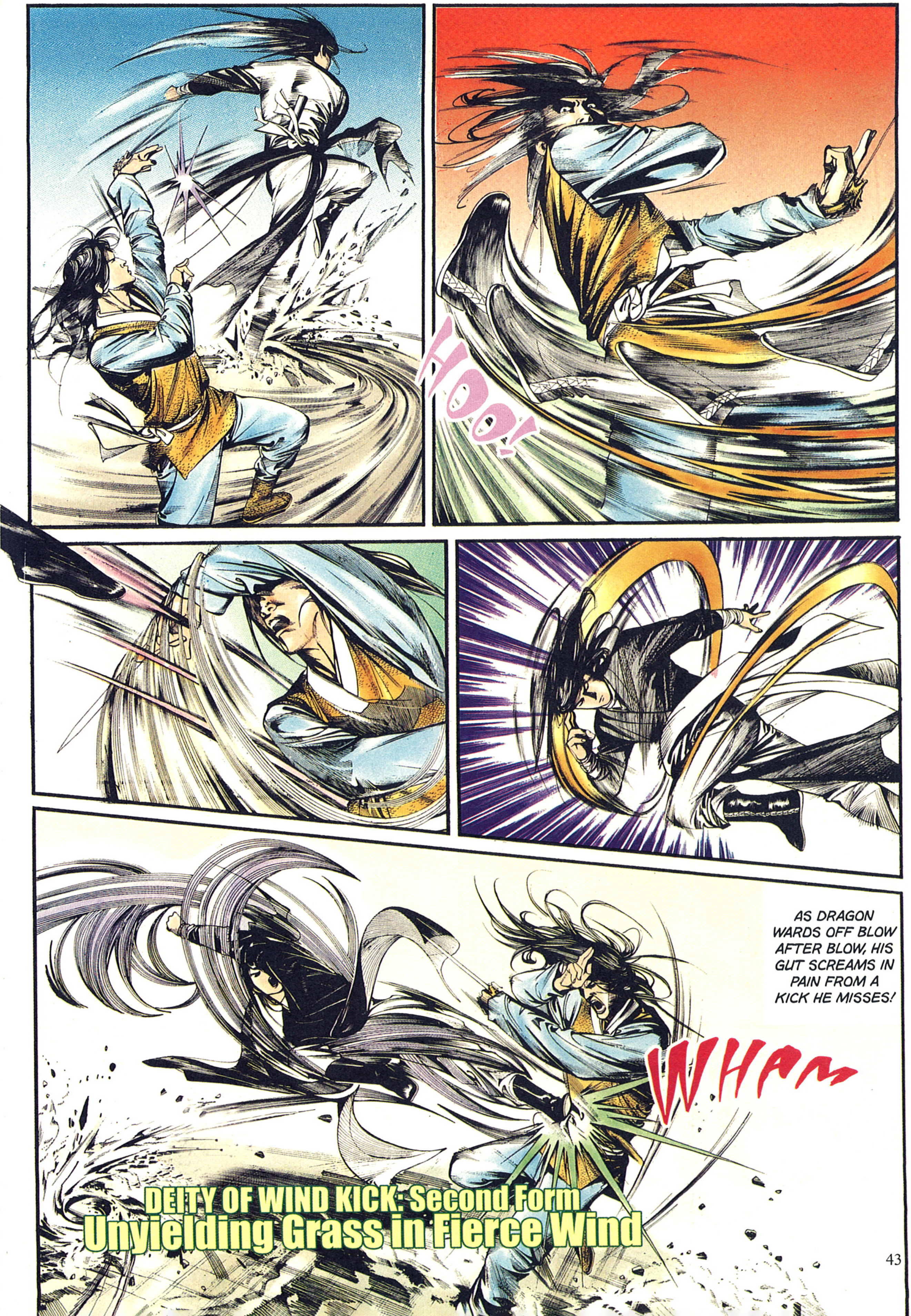

YAH!
RARRRGH!
UNABLE TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND, WOLF BLADE BELLOWS THUNDEROUSLY, RUSHING TO HIS BROTHER'S AID.
THOUGH I'D HEARD OF CATCH WIND AND SEIZE SHADOW'S GLORY, NOW I TRULY UNDERSTAND.
WHAM

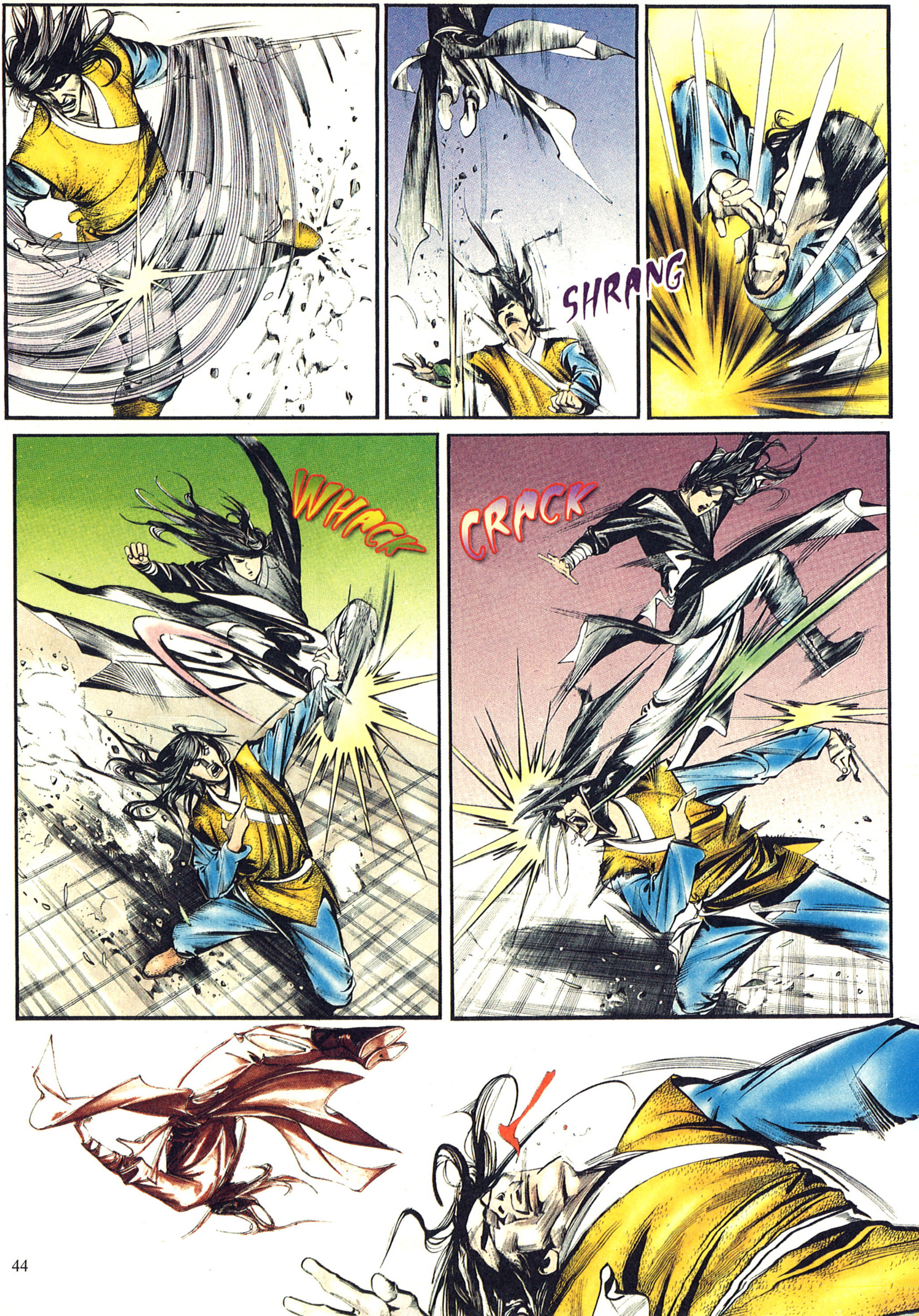

THRUST
WHAH!!
SHOOM SHOOM
SHIIING

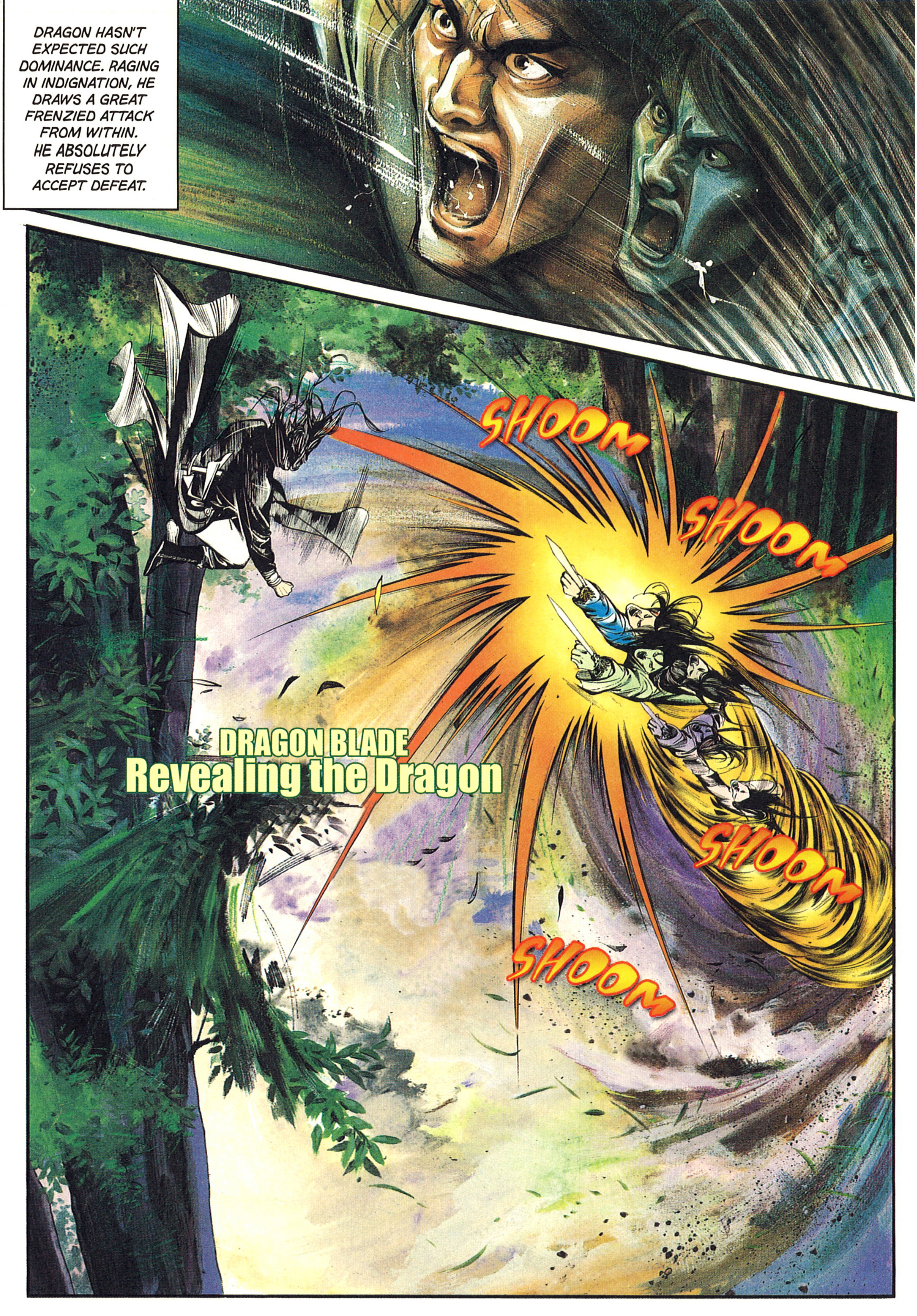

YOUR HOOK, SIR!
I...HAVEN'T DRAWN IT YET... BUT I'VE ALREADY LOST.
AGH!
HIS DEITY OF WIND KICK HAS TAUGHT US A BIG LESSON!


WE'VE BEEN BEATEN. THE FOUR OF US CONCEDE DEFEAT!
OLD MAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SIS, I'M SCARED!
DON'T WORRY... NO ONE WILL HARM US!
WIND, MY BLADE STILL RESTS IN MY HAND. SHOW ME YOUR SKILLS. COME AND TRY TAKING MY BLADE!
DRAGON, YOUR ARROGANCE IS UNMATCHED. IF I DON'T DEFEAT YOU TODAY, YOU'LL NEVER BE CONVINCED!


THEN WE'LL SETTLE THINGS NOW!
HIS BLADE STRIKING ONLY AIR, DRAGON CANNOT TOUCH WIND.

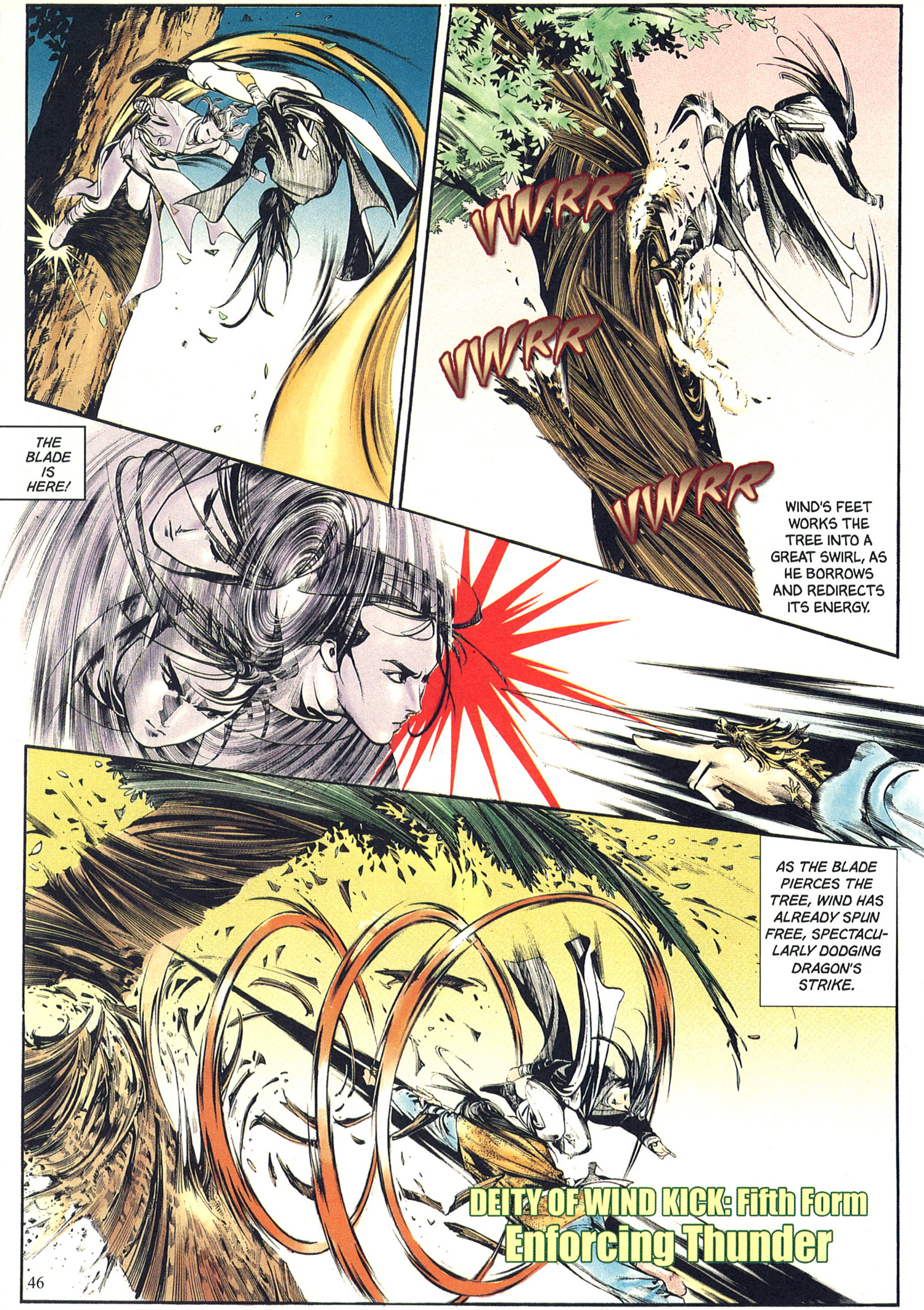

HOO!
AS DRAGON WARDS OFF BLOW AFTER BLOW, HIS GUT SCREAMS IN PAIN FROM A KICK HE MISSES!
WHAM
DEITY OF WIND KICK: Second Form
Unyielding Grass in Fierce Wind

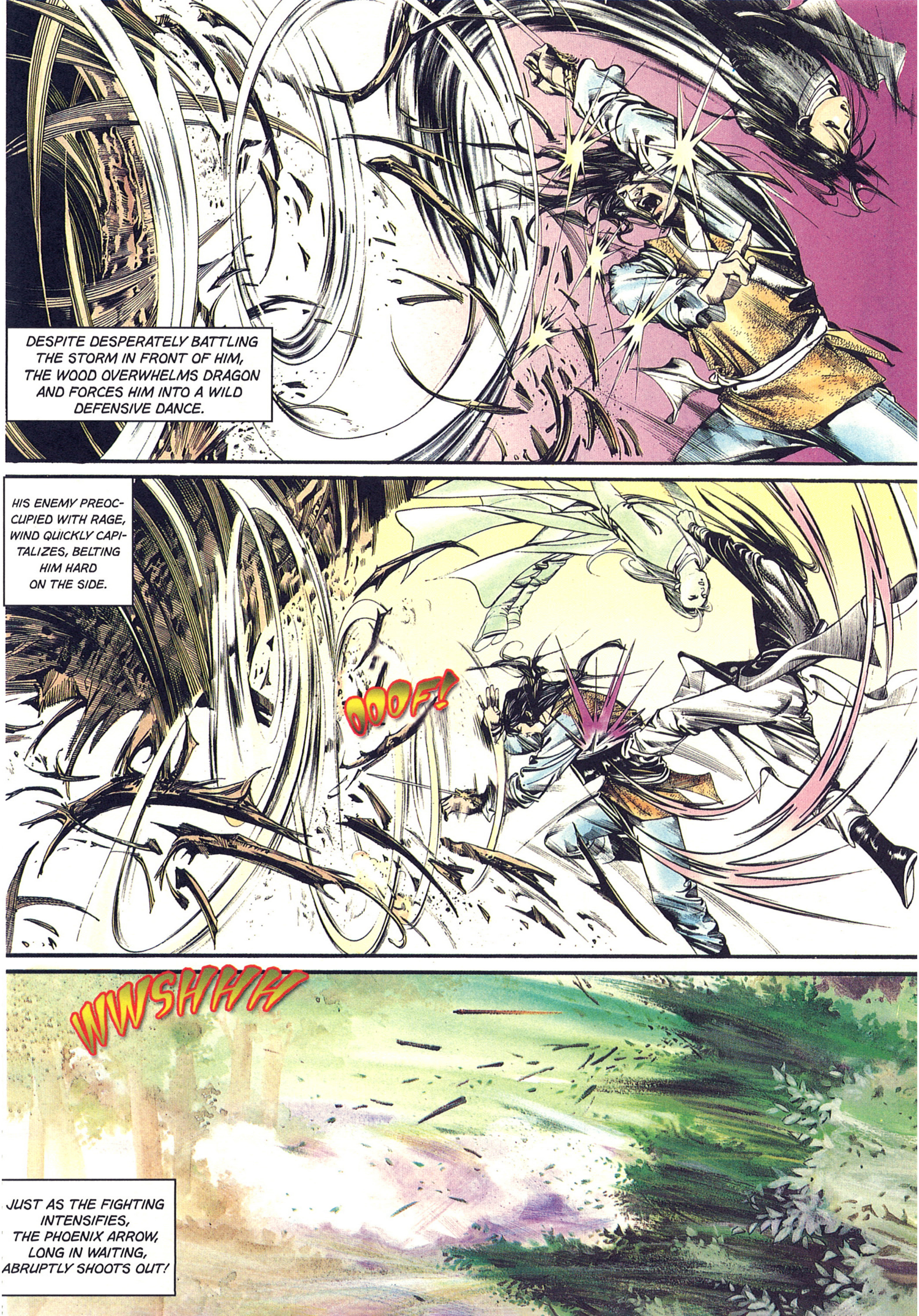

SHRANG
WHACK
CRACK

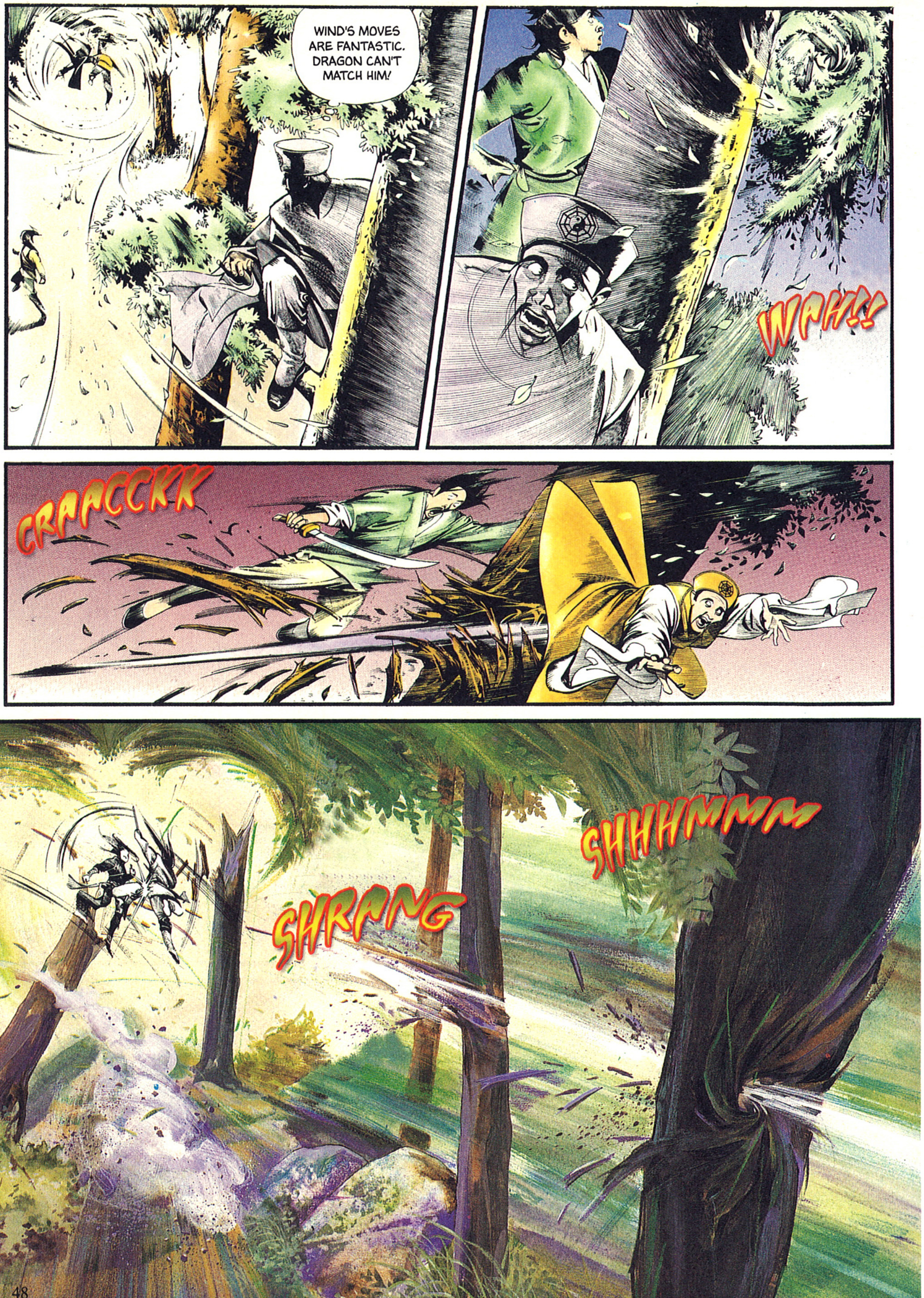

DRAGON HASN'T EXPECTED SUCH DOMINANCE. RAGING IN INDIGNATION, HE DRAWS A GREAT FRENZIED ATTACK FROM WITHIN. HE ABSOLUTELY REFUSES TO ACCEPT DEFEAT.
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM

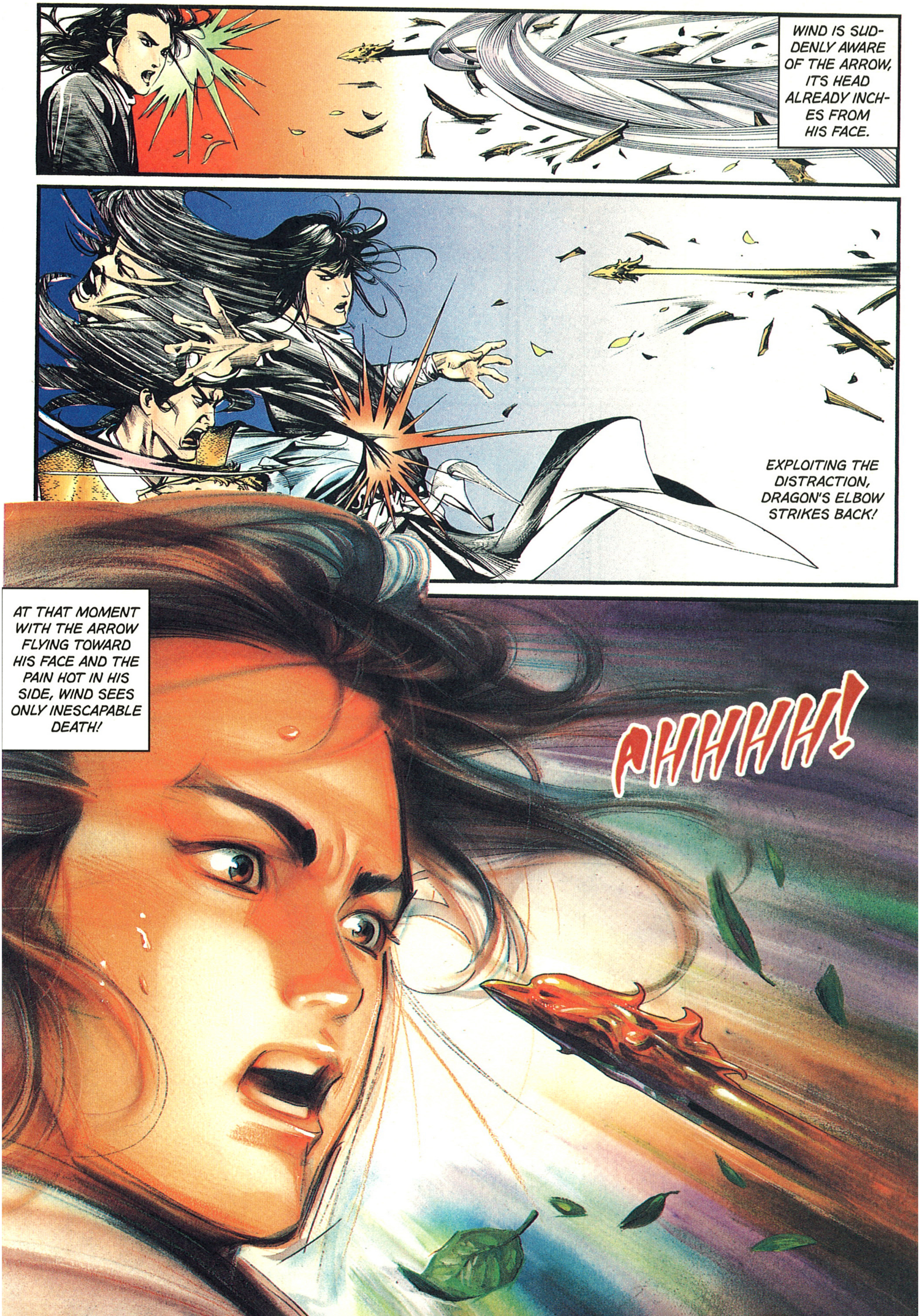
DRAGON BLADE

Revealing the Dragon

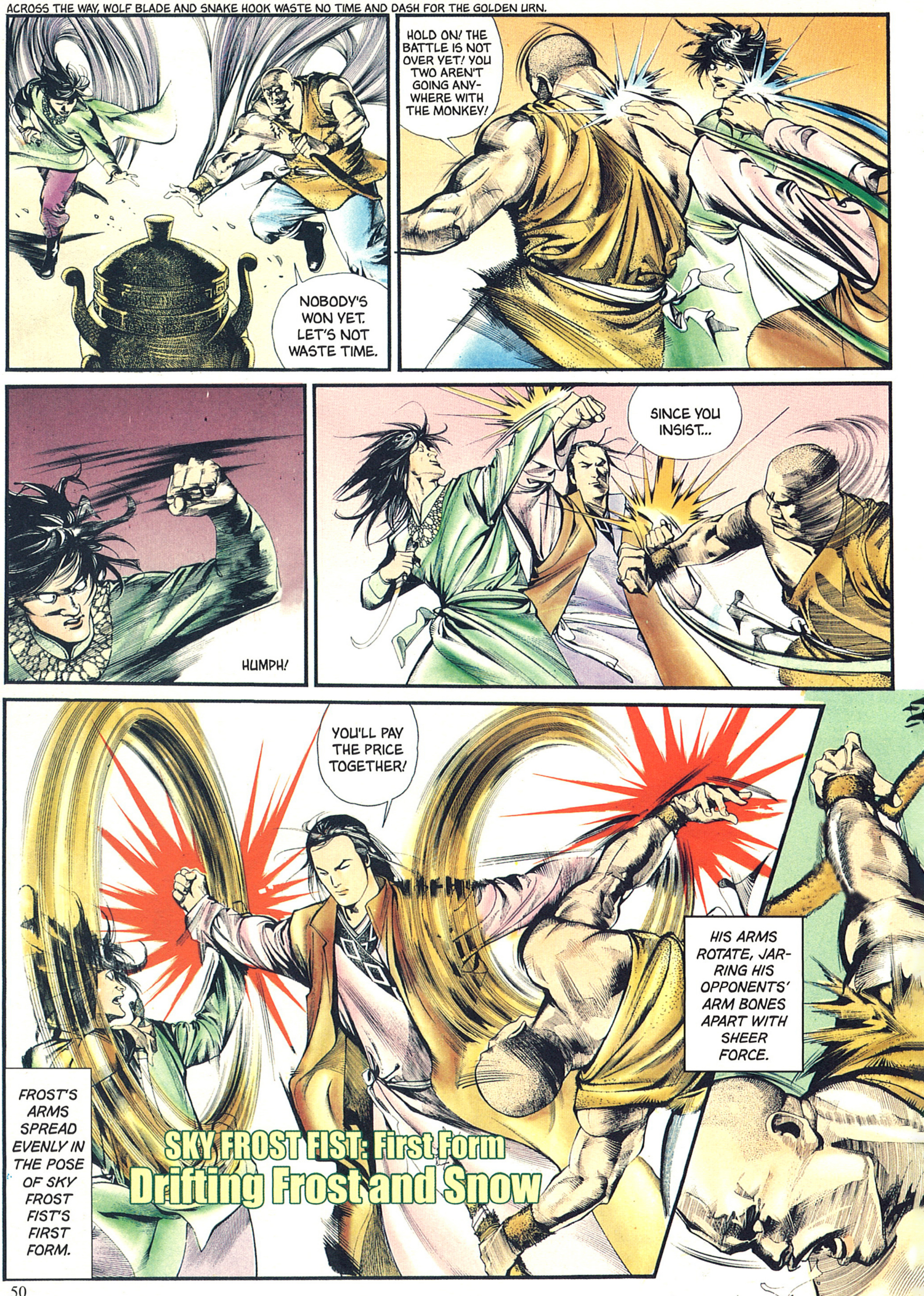

VWRR
VWRR
THE BLADE IS HERE!
VWRR
WIND'S FEET WORKS THE TREE INTO A GREAT SWIRL, AS HE BORROWS AND REDIRECTS ITS ENERGY.
AS THE BLADE PIERCES THE TREE, WIND HAS ALREADY SPUN FREE, SPECTACULARLY DODGING DRAGON'S STRIKE.
DEITY OF WIND KICK: Fifth Form
Enforcing Thunder

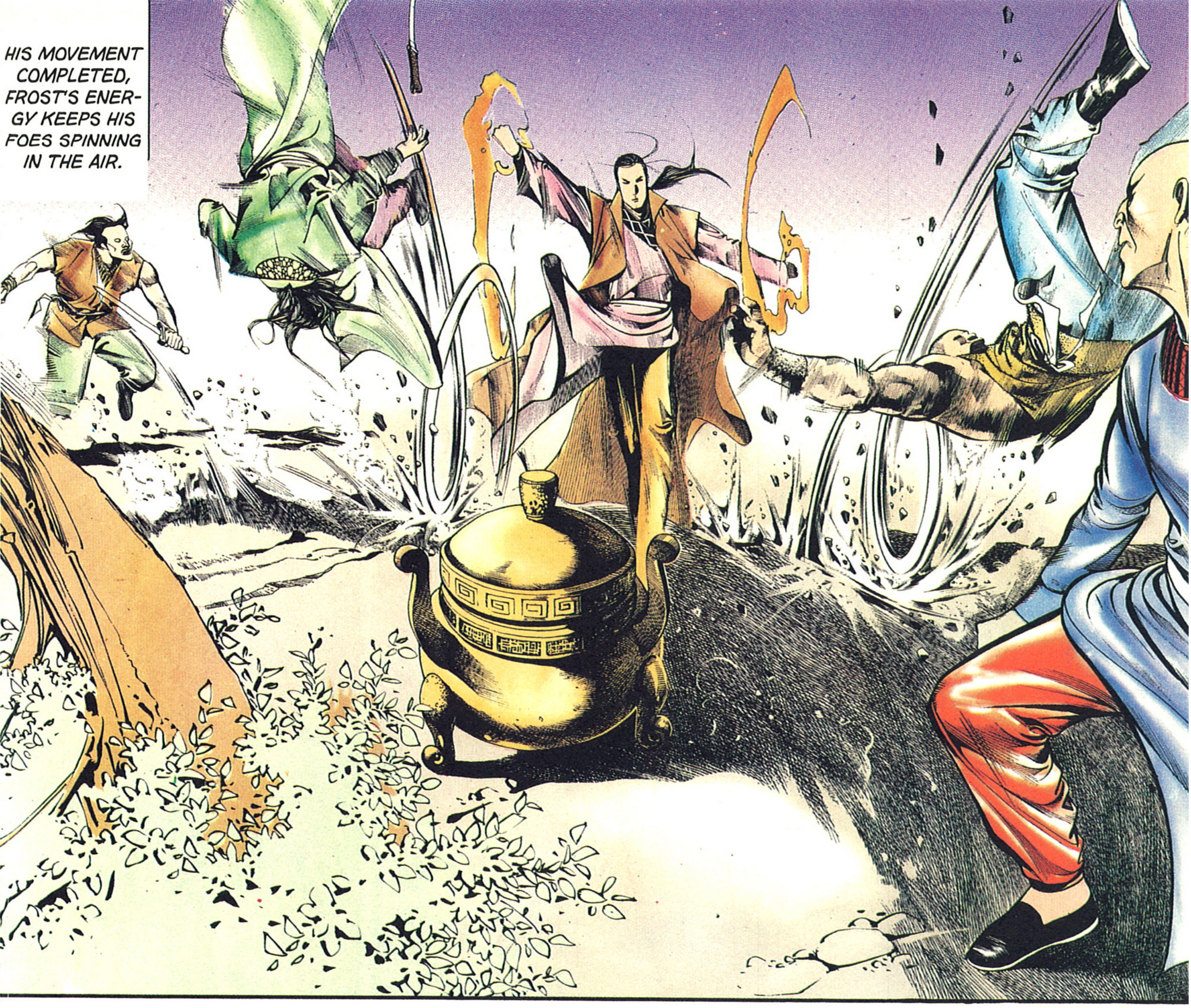

DESPITE DESPERATELY BATTLING THE STORM IN FRONT OF HIM, THE WOOD OVERWHELMS DRAGON AND FORCES HIM INTO A WILD DEFENSIVE DANCE.
HIS ENEMY PREOCCUPIED WITH RAGE, WIND QUICKLY CAPITALIZES, BELTING HIM HARD ON THE SIDE.
OOOF!
WWSHHH
JUST AS THE FIGHTING INTENSIFIES, THE PHOENIX ARROW, LONG IN WAITING, ABRUPTLY SHOOTS OUT!

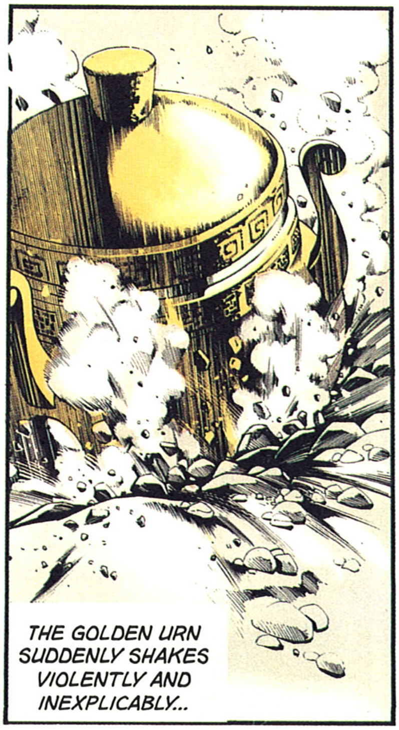

WIND'S MOVES ARE FANTASTIC. DRAGON CAN'T MATCH HIM!
WAH!!
CRAACCKK
SHHHMMM
SHRANG

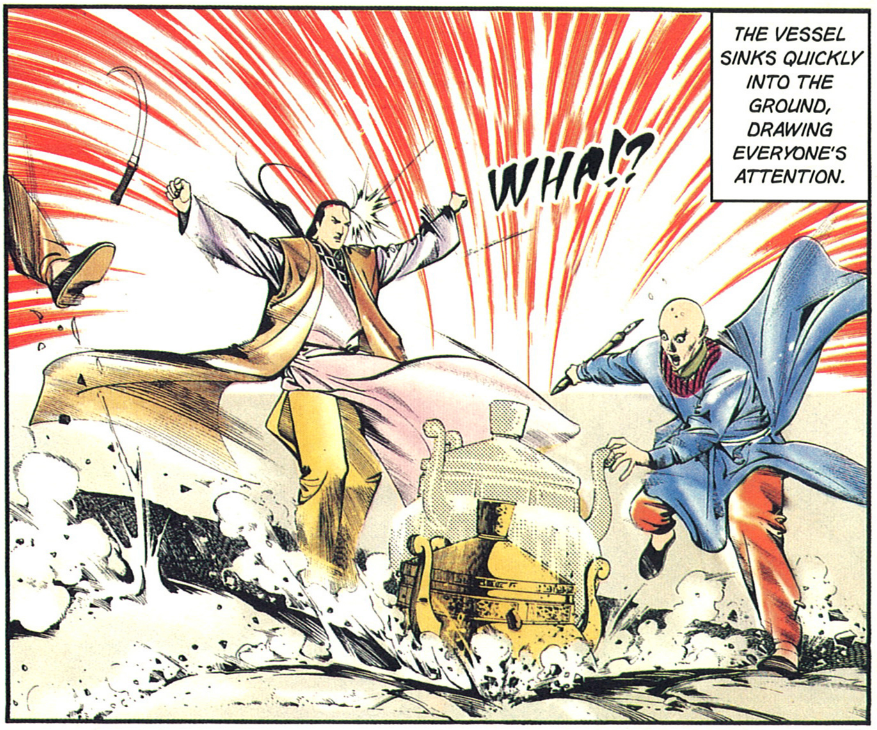

WIND IS SUDDENLY AWARE OF THE ARROW, ITS HEAD ALREADY INCHES FROM HIS FACE.
EXPLOITING THE DISTRACTION, DRAGON'S ELBOW STRIKES BACK!
AT THAT MOMENT WITH THE ARROW FLYING TOWARD HIS FACE AND THE PAIN HOT IN HIS SIDE, WIND SEES ONLY INESCAPABLE DEATH!
AHHHH!

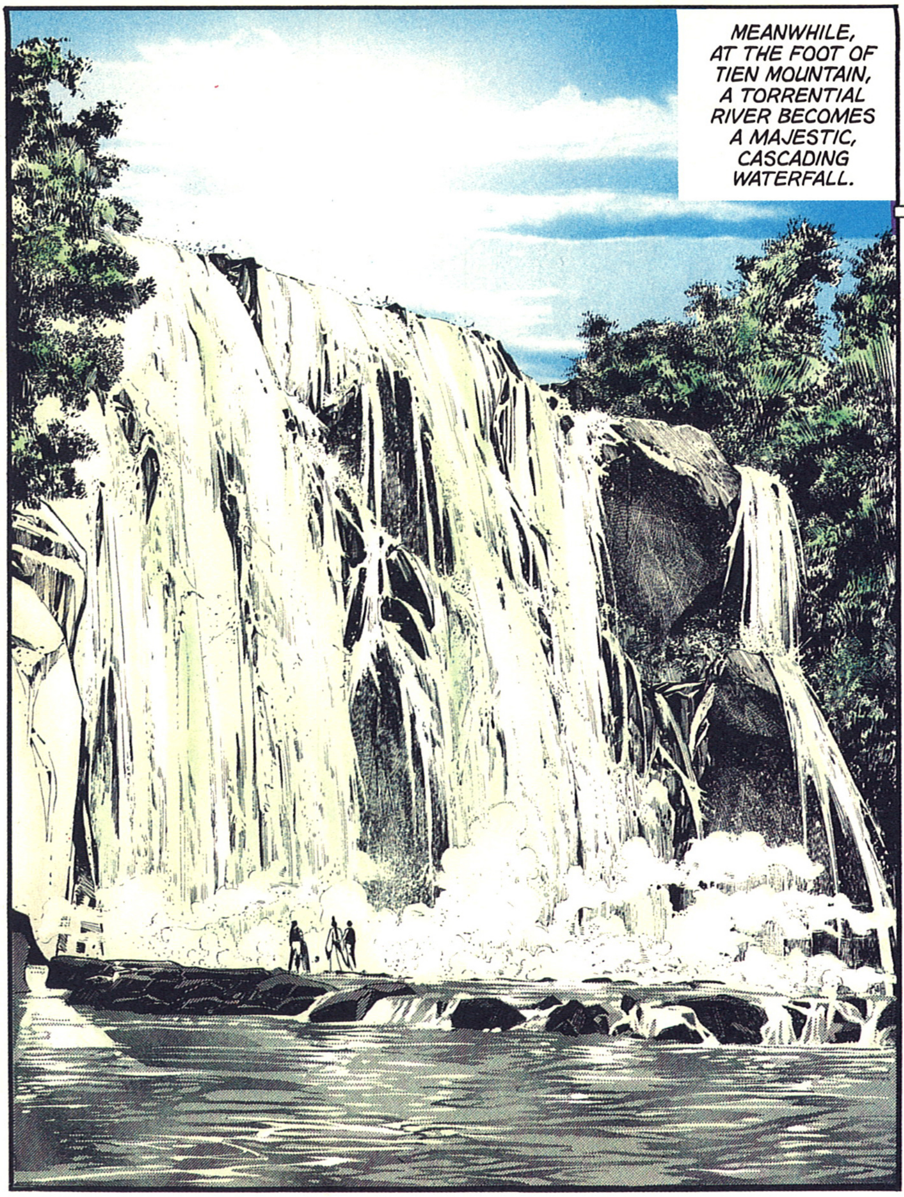
ACROSS THE WAY, WOLF BLADE AND SNAKE HOOK WASTE NO TIME AND DASH FOR THE GOLDEN URN.

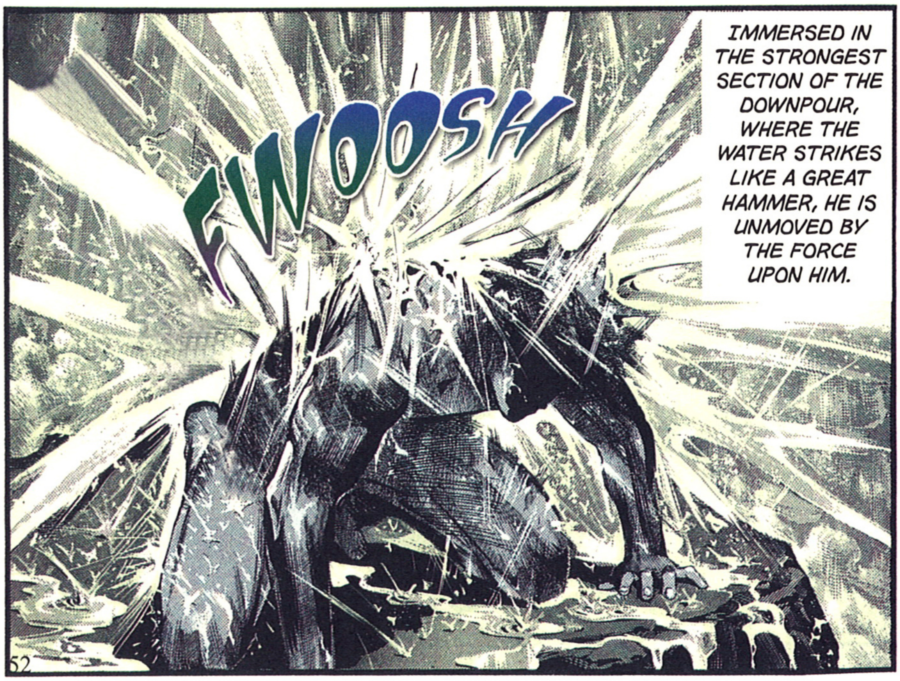

NOBODY'S WON YET. LET'S NOT WASTE TIME.
HOLD ON! THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER YET! YOU TWO AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE WITH THE MONKEY!
HUMPH!
SINCE YOU INSIST...
YOU'LL PAY THE PRICE TOGETHER!
FROST'S ARMS SPREAD EVENLY IN THE POSE OF SKY FROST FIST'S FIRST FORM.
SKY FROST FIST: First Form
Drifting Frost and Snow
HIS ARMS ROTATE, JARRING HIS OPPONENTS' ARM BONES APART WITH SHEER FORCE.

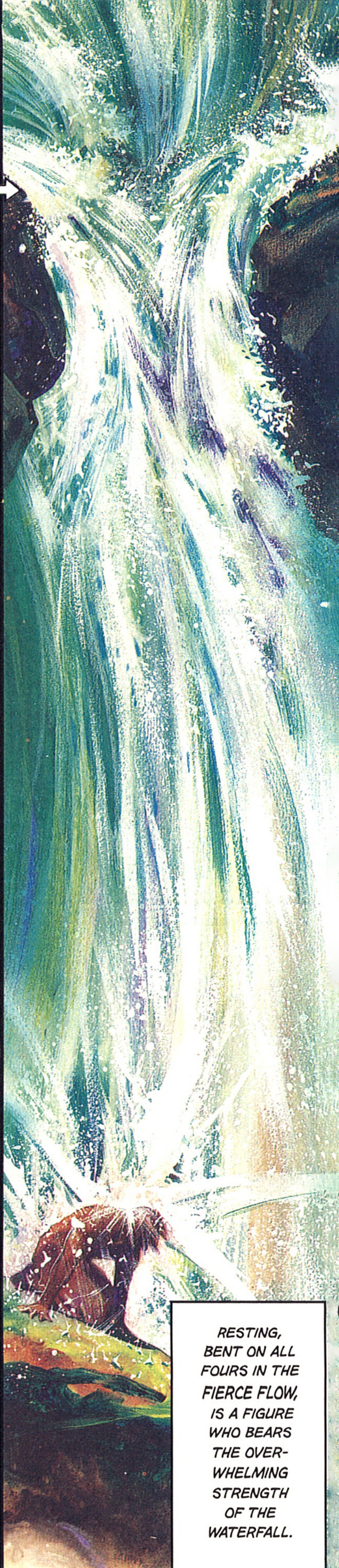

HIS MOVEMENT COMPLETED, FROST'S ENERGY KEEPS HIS FOES SPINNING IN THE AIR.

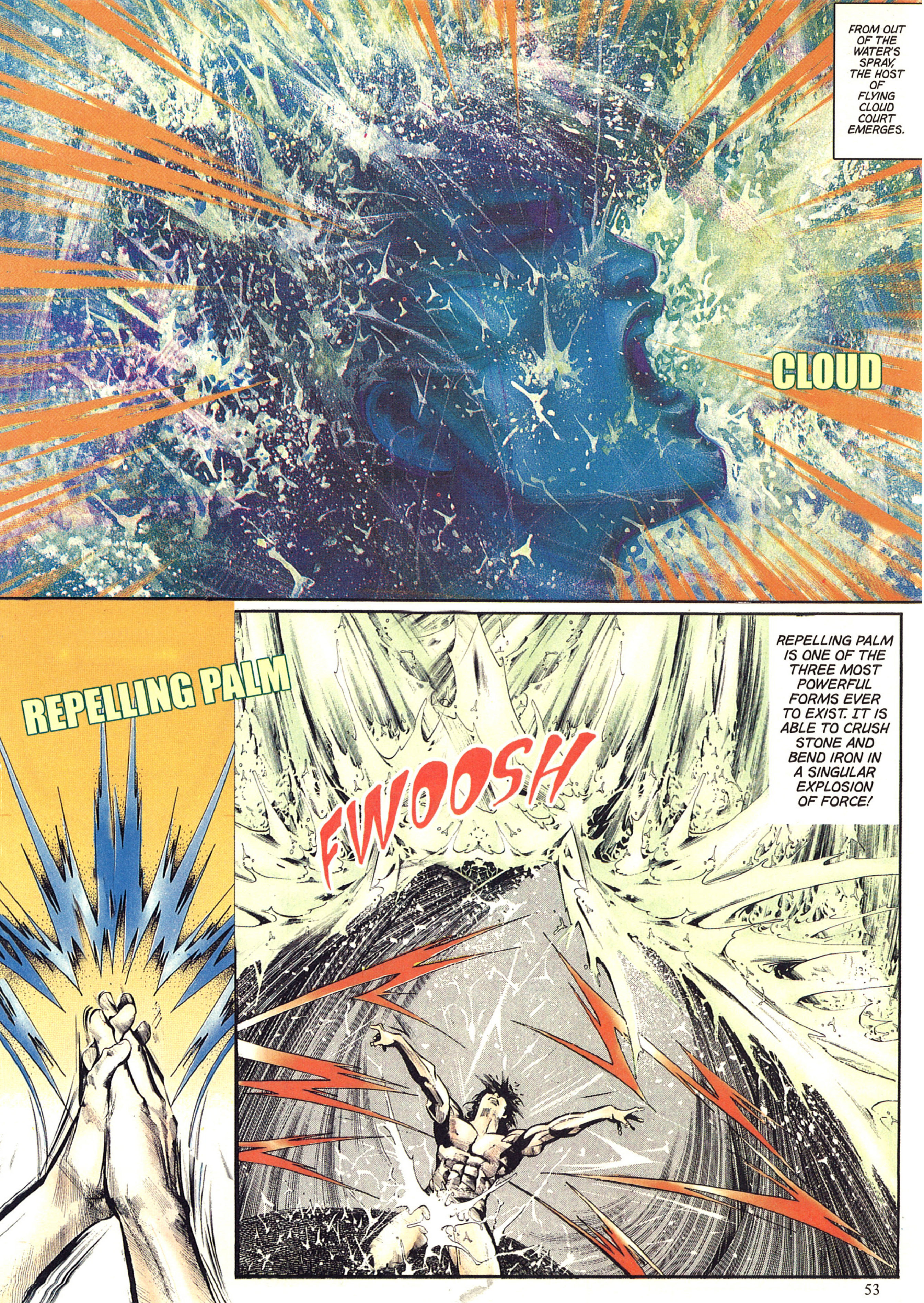

THE GOLDEN URN SUDDENLY SHAKES VIOLENTLY AND INEXPLICABLY...

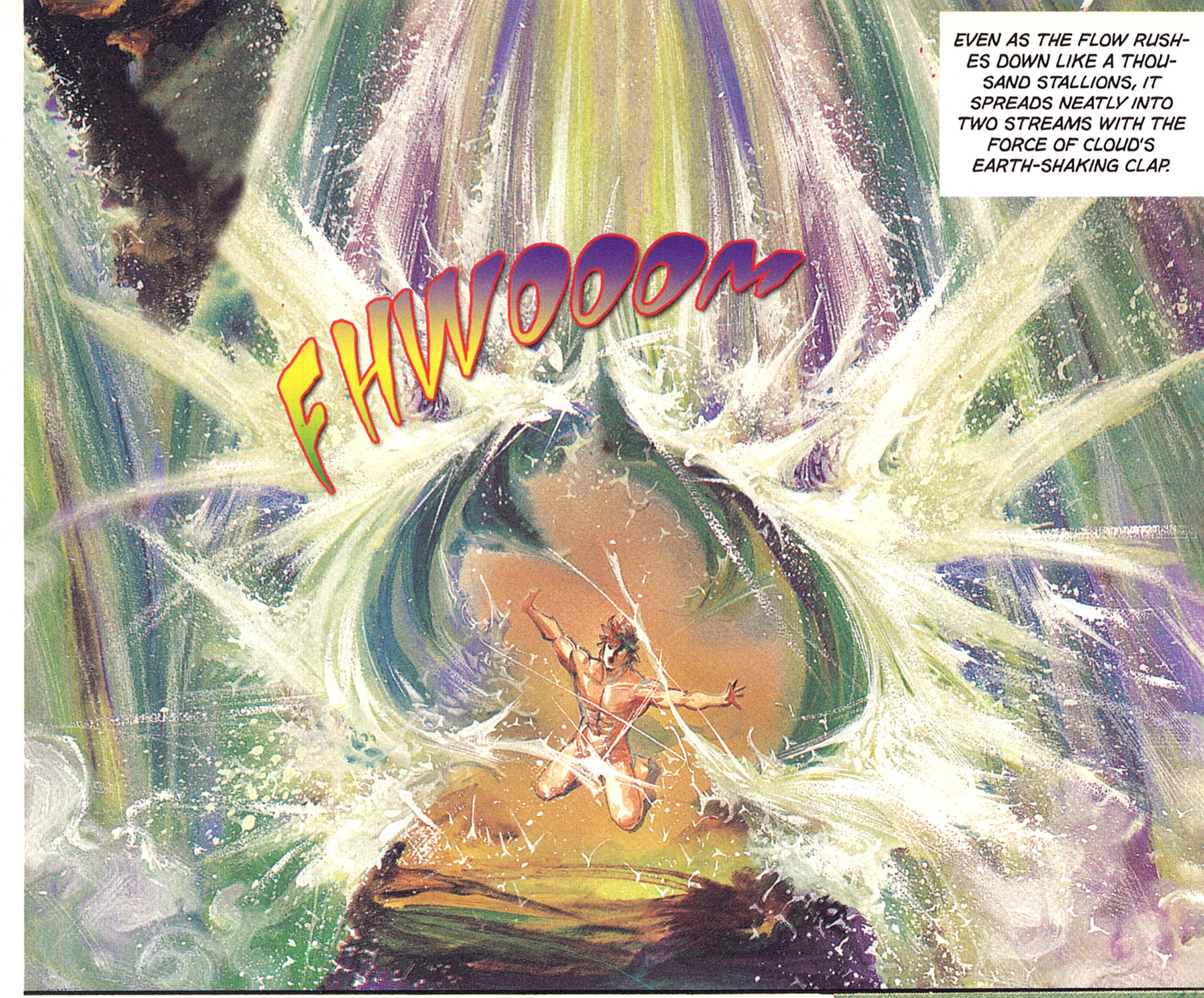

THE VESSEL SINKS QUICKLY INTO THE GROUND, DRAWING EVERYONE'S ATTENTION.
WHA!?


MEANWHILE, AT THE FOOT OF TIEN MOUNTAIN, A TORRENTIAL RIVER BECOMES A MAJESTIC, CASCADING WATERFALL.

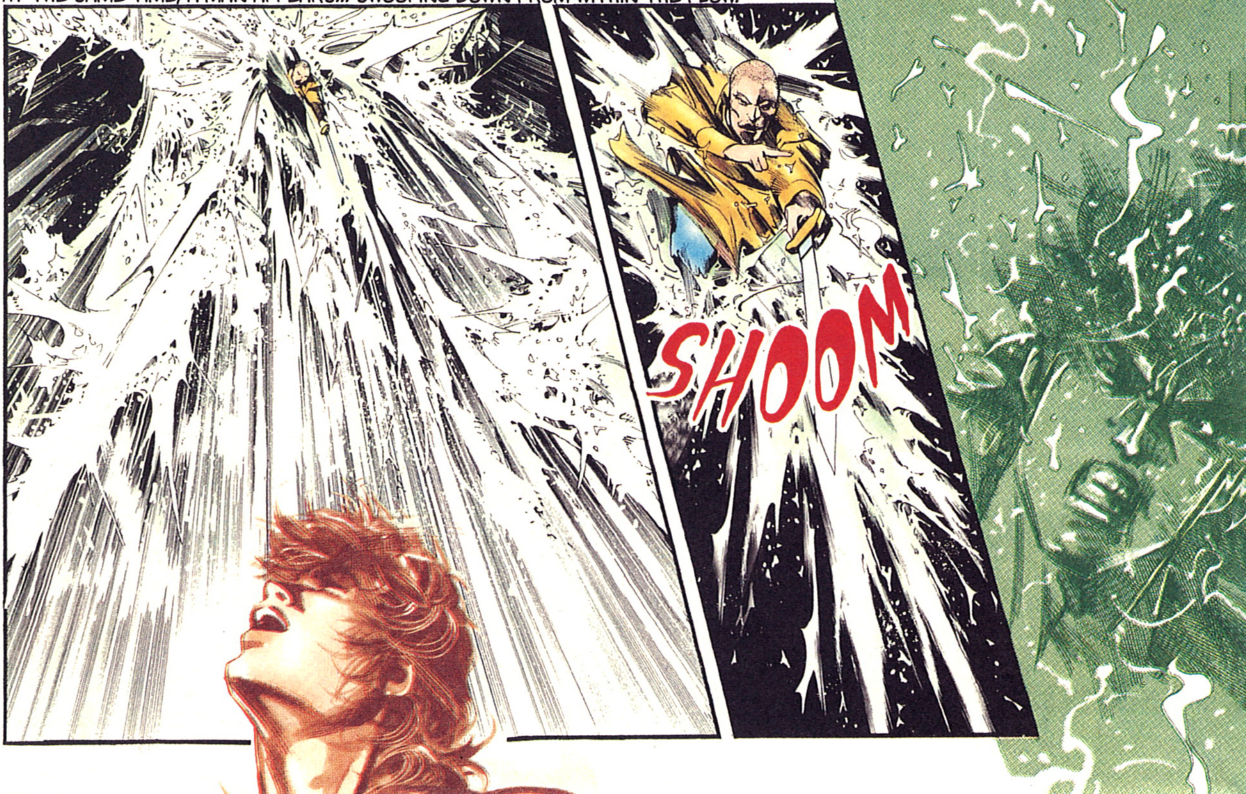

IMMERSED IN THE STRONGEST SECTION OF THE DOWNPOUR, WHERE THE WATER STRIKES LIKE A GREAT HAMMER, HE IS UNMOVED BY THE FORCE UPON HIM.
FWOOSH

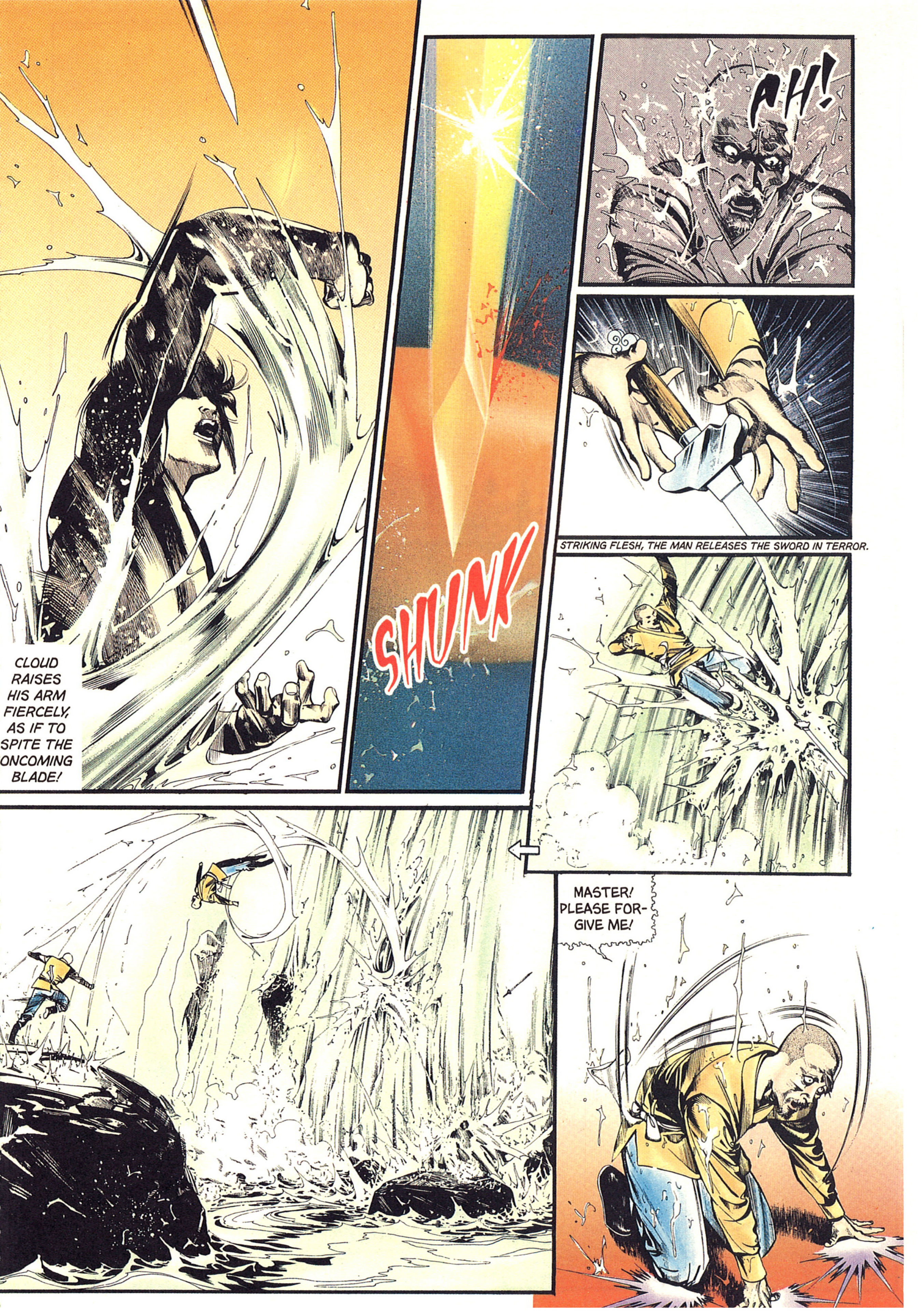

RESTING, BENT ON ALL FOURS IN THE FIERCE FLOW, IS A FIGURE WHO BEARS THE OVERWHELMING STRENGTH OF THE WATERFALL.

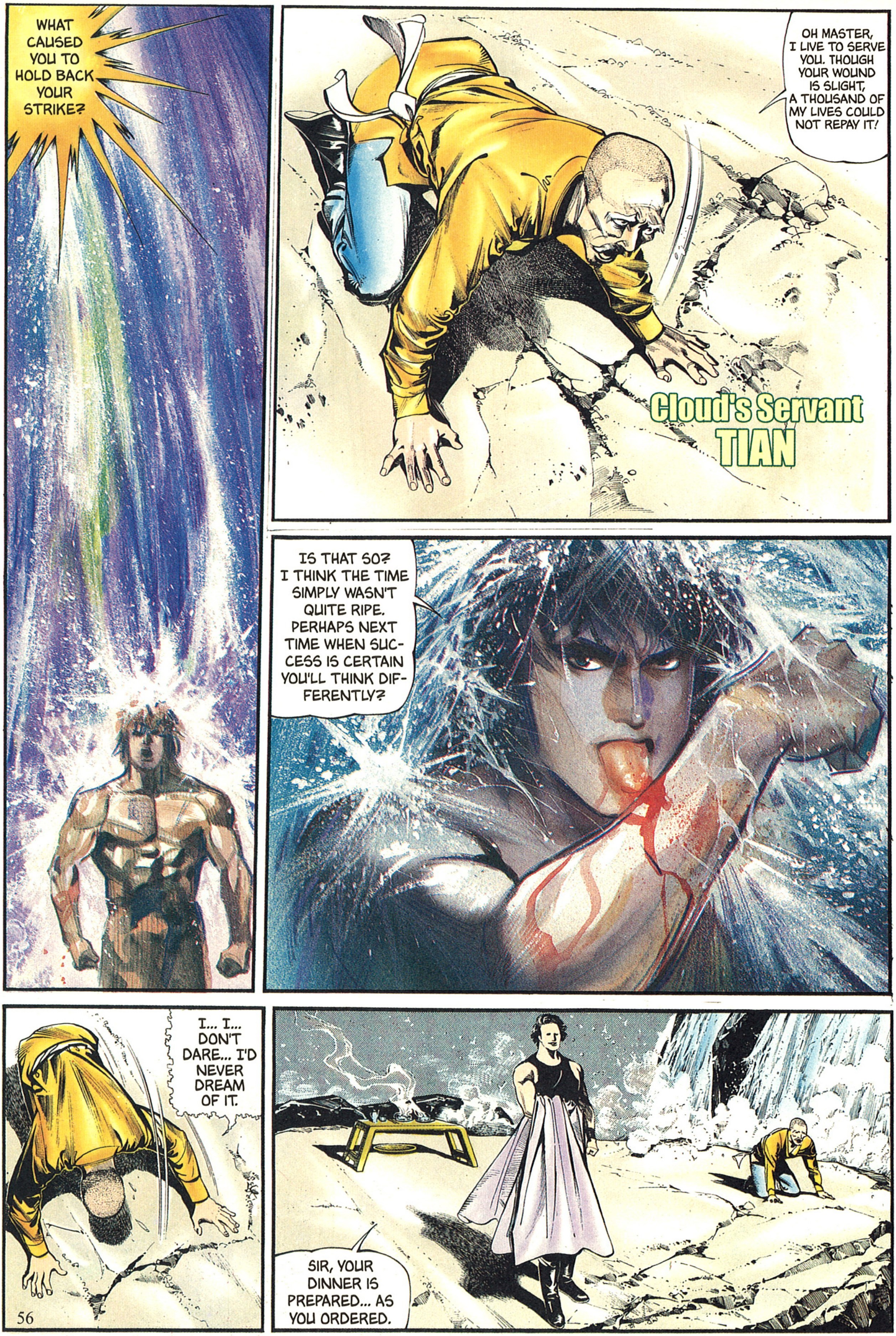

FROM OUT OF THE WATER'S SPRAY, THE HOST OF FLYING CLOUD COURT EMERGES.
CLOUD
REPELLING PALM IS ONE OF THE THREE MOST POWERFUL FORMS EVER TO EXIST. IT IS ABLE TO CRUSH STONE AND BEND IRON IN A SINGULAR EXPLOSION OF FORCE!
REPELLING PALM
FWOOSH

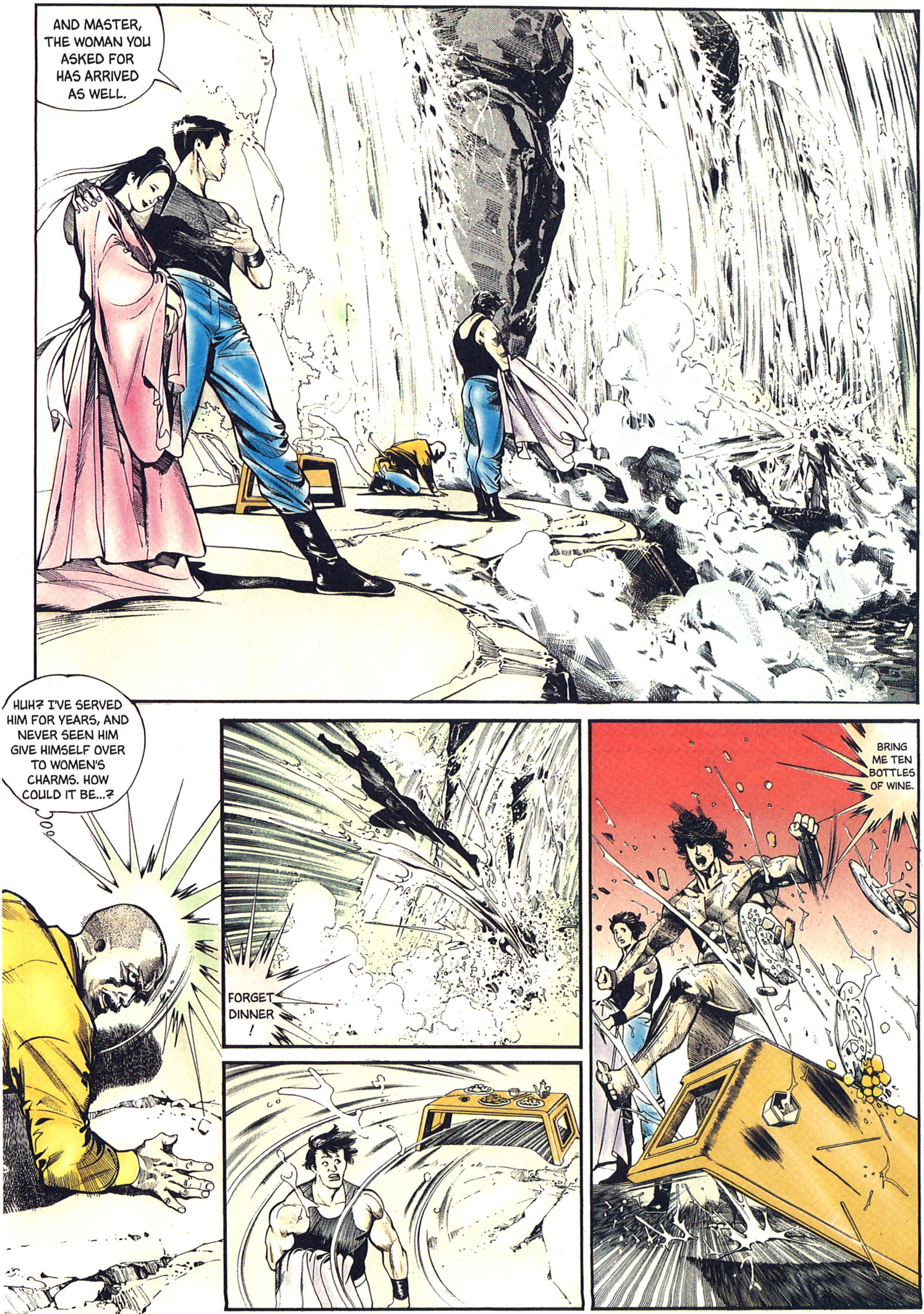

EVEN AS THE FLOW RUSHES DOWN LIKE A THOUSAND STALLIONS, IT SPREADS NEATLY INTO TWO STREAMS WITH THE FORCE OF CLOUD'S EARTH-SHAKING CLAP.
FHWOOOM

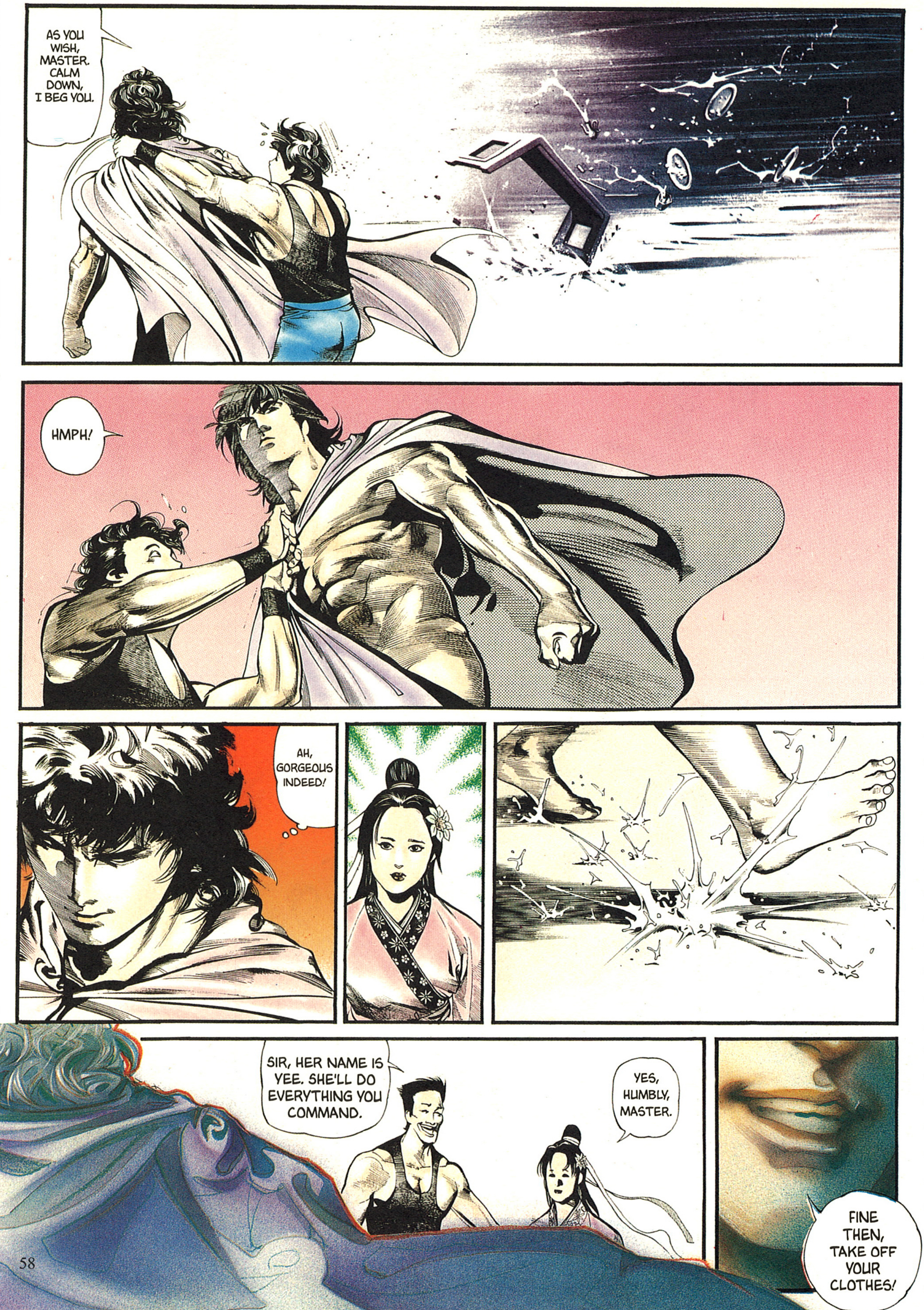
AT THE SAME TIME, A MAN APPEARS... SWOOPING DOWN FROM WITHIN THE FLOW.

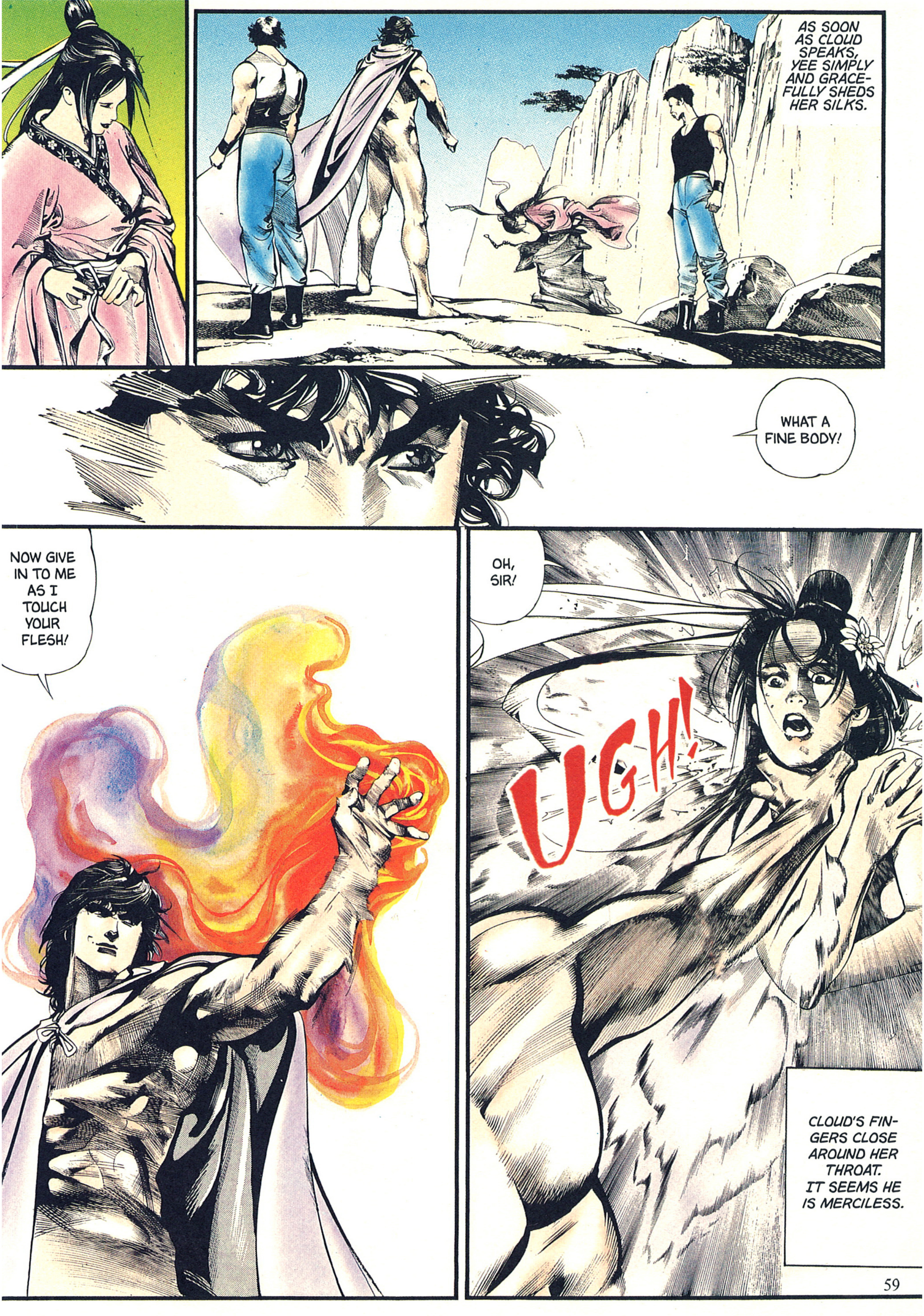



CLOUD RAISES HIS ARM FIERCELY, AS IF TO SPITE THE ONCOMING BLADE!
SHUNK
AH!
STRIKING FLESH, THE MAN RELEASES THE SWORD IN TERROR.
MASTER! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

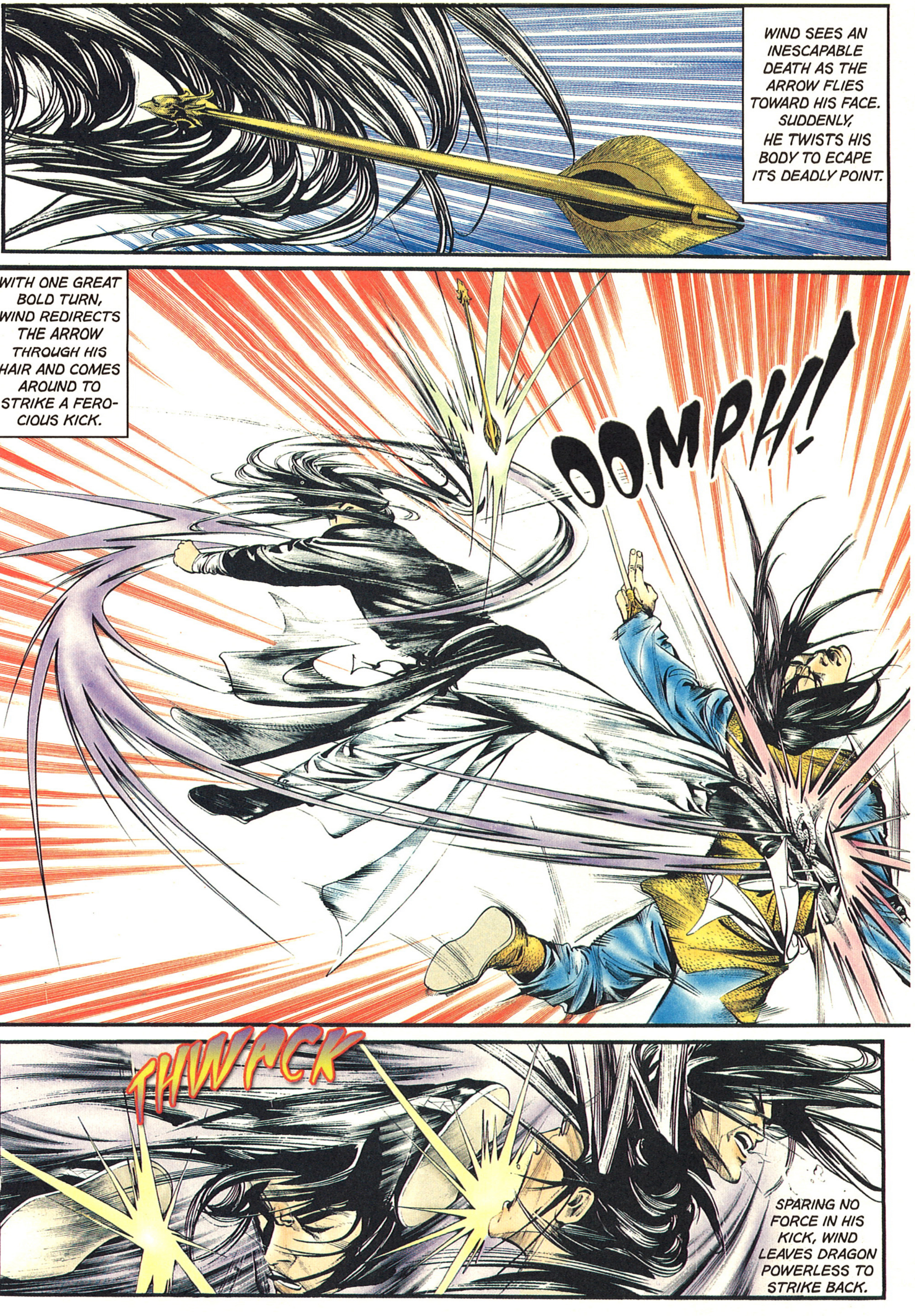

WHAT CAUSED YOU TO HOLD BACK YOUR STRIKE?
OH MASTER, I LIVE TO SERVE YOU. THOUGH YOUR WOUND IS SLIGHT, A THOUSAND OF MY LIVES COULD NOT REPAY IT!
Cloud's Servant
TIAN
IS THAT SO? I THINK THE TIME SIMPLY WASN'T QUITE RIPE. PERHAPS NEXT TIME WHEN SUCCESS IS CERTAIN YOU'LL THINK DIFFERENTLY?
I... I... DON'T DARE... I'D NEVER DREAM OF IT.
SIR, YOUR DINNER IS PREPARED... AS YOU ORDERED.

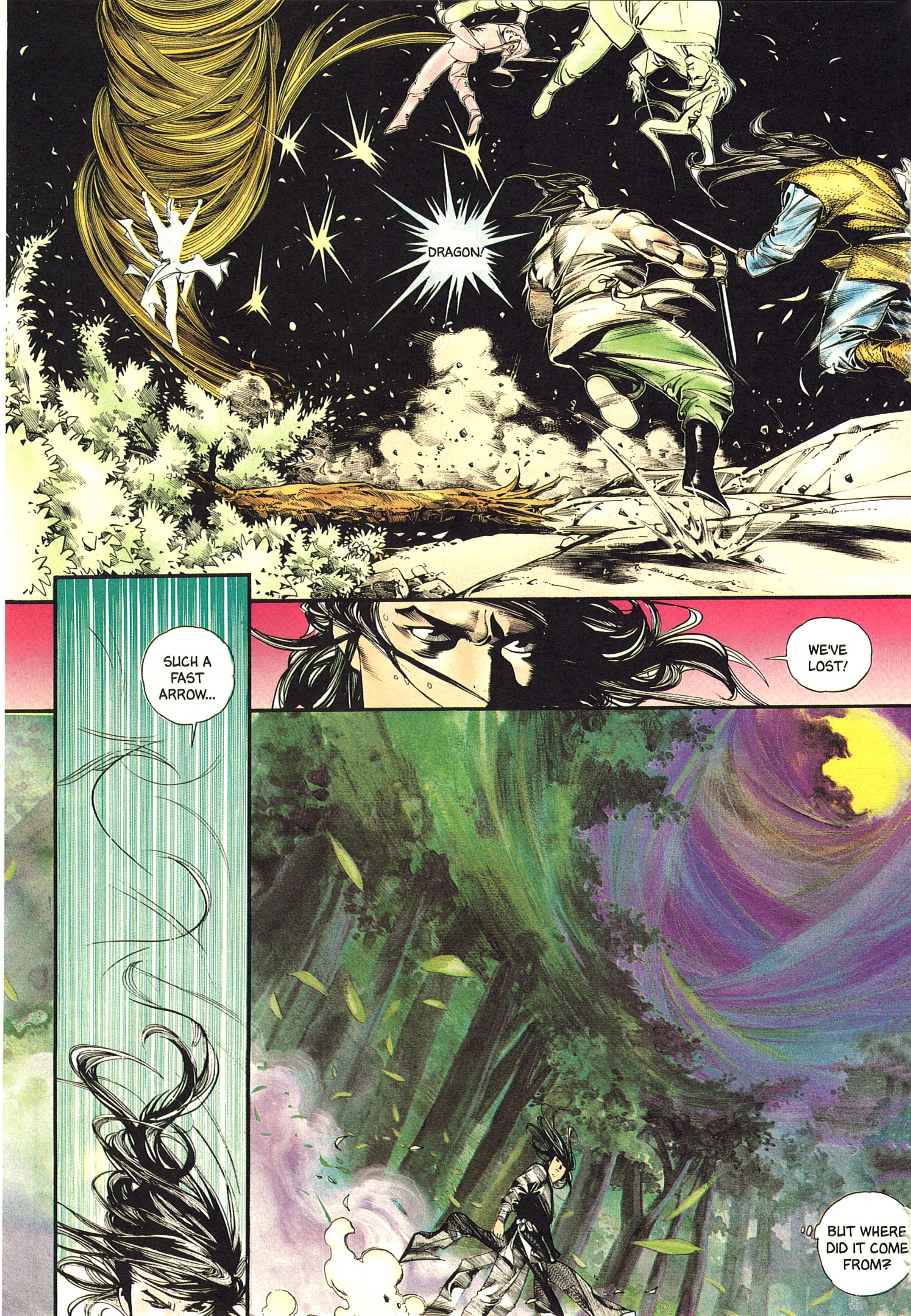

AND MASTER, THE WOMAN YOU ASKED FOR HAS ARRIVED AS WELL.
HUH? I'VE SERVED HIM FOR YEARS, AND NEVER SEEN HIM GIVE HIMSELF OVER TO WOMEN'S CHARMS. HOW COULD IT BE...?
FORGET DINNER!
BRING ME TEN BOTTLES OF WINE.

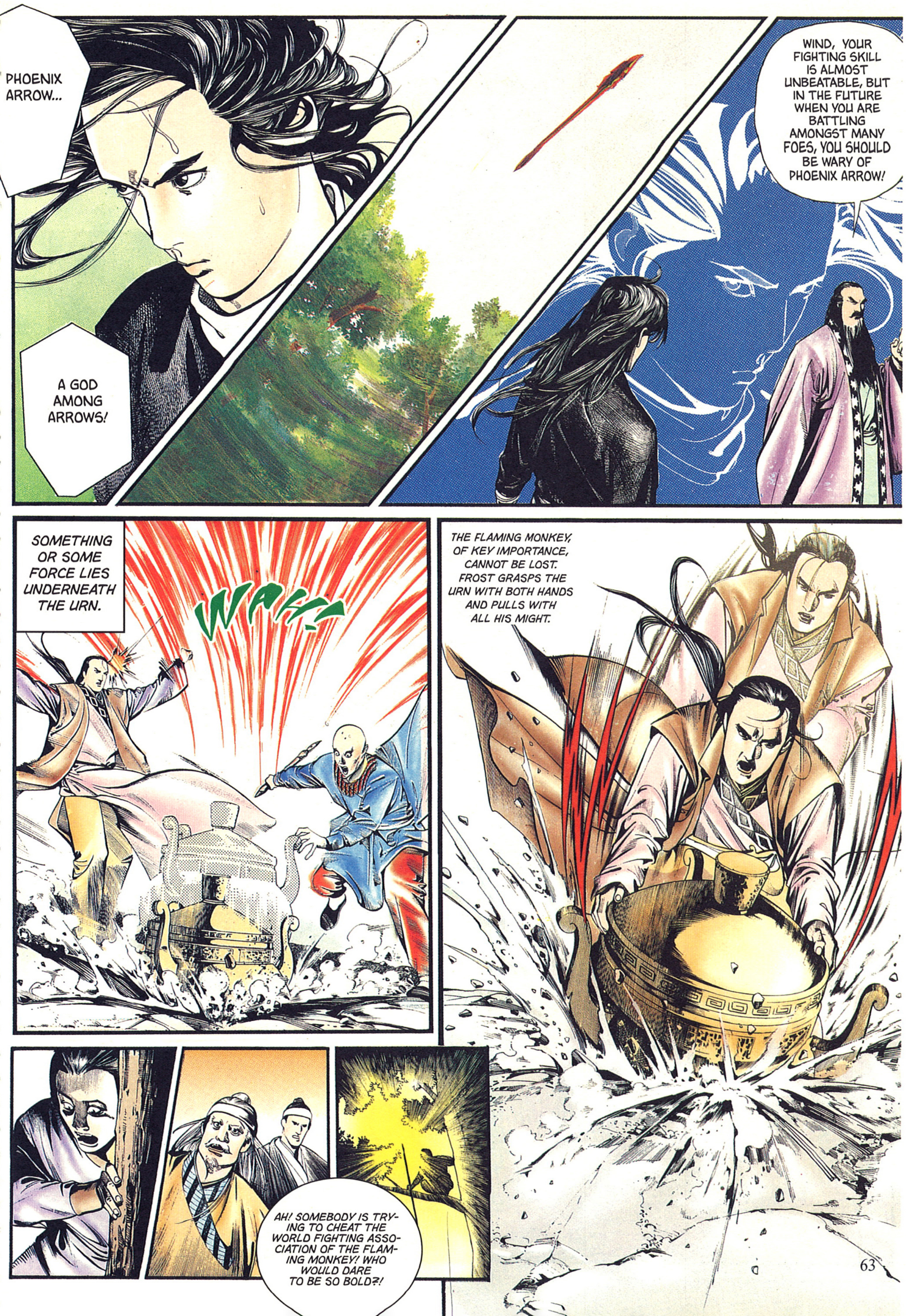

AS YOU WISH, MASTER. CALM DOWN, I BEG YOU.
HMPH!
AH, GORGEOUS INDEED!
SIR, HER NAME IS YEE. SHE'LL DO EVERYTHING YOU COMMAND.
YES, HUMBLY, MASTER.
FINE THEN, TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES!

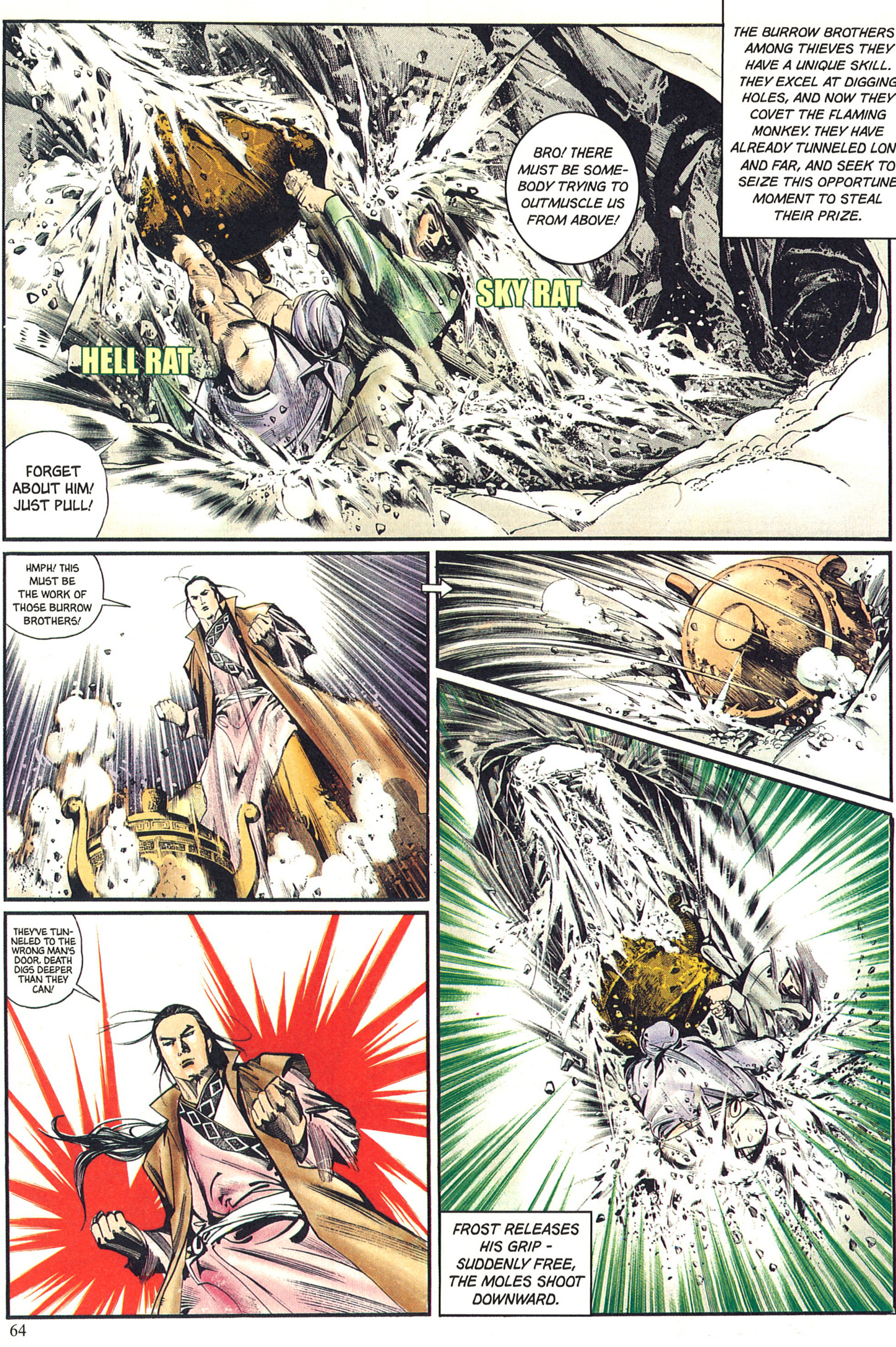

AS SOON AS CLOUD SPEAKS, YEE SIMPLY AND GRACEFULLY SHEDS HER SILKS.
WHAT A FINE BODY!
NOW GIVE IN TO ME AS I TOUCH YOUR FLESH!
OH, SIR!
UGH!
CLOUD'S FINGERS CLOSE AROUND HER THROAT. IT SEEMS HE IS MERCILESS.

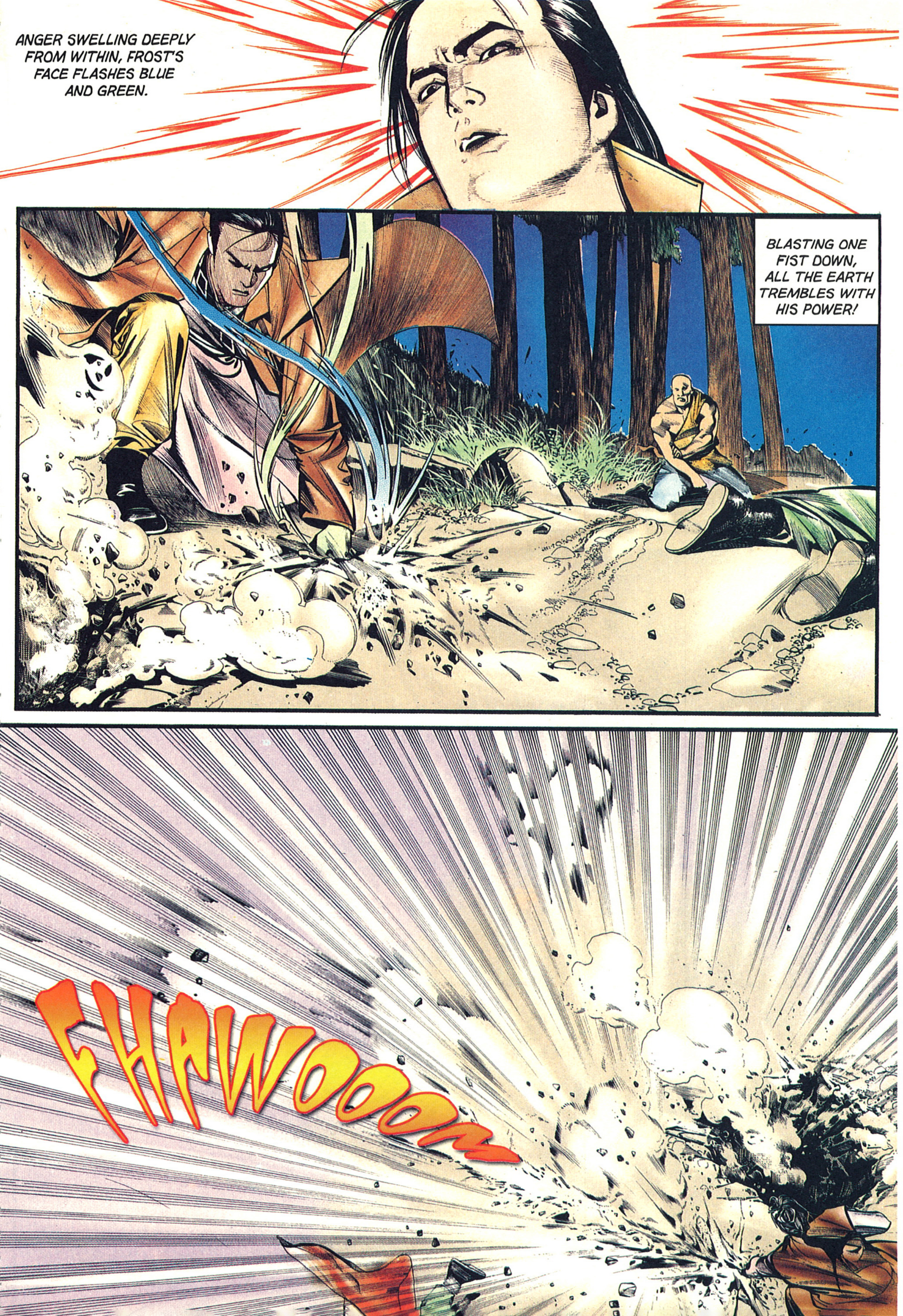
Chapter 7: Dragon Kick

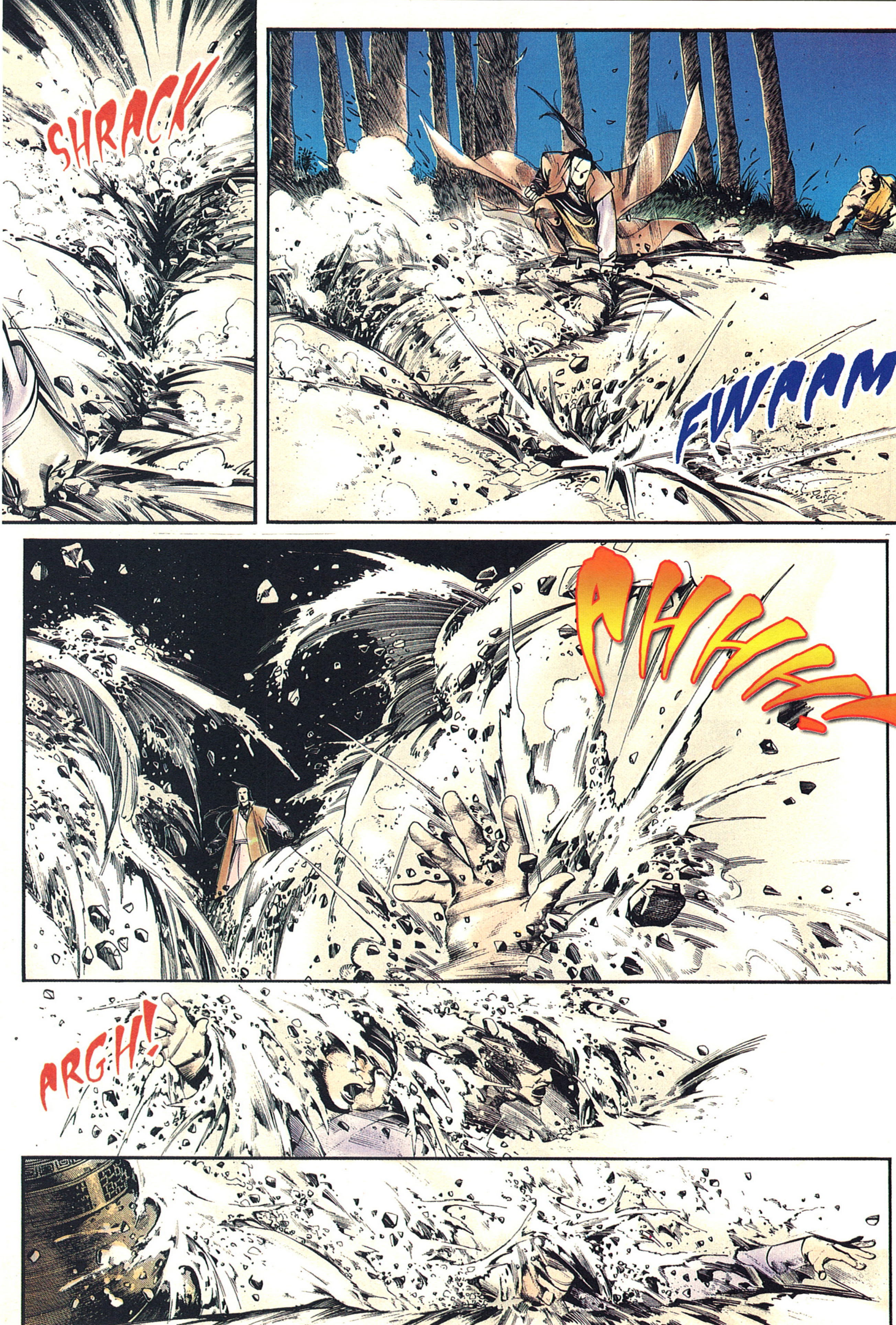

WIND SEES AN INESCAPABLE DEATH AS THE ARROW FLIES TOWARD HIS FACE. SUDDENLY, HE TWISTS HIS BODY TO ECAPE ITS DEADLY POINT.
WITH ONE GREAT BOLD TURN, WIND REDIRECTS THE ARROW THROUGH HIS HAIR AND COMES AROUND TO STRIKE A FEROCIOUS KICK.
OOMPH!
THWACK
SPARING NO FORCE IN HIS KICK, WIND LEAVES DRAGON POWERLESS TO STRIKE BACK.

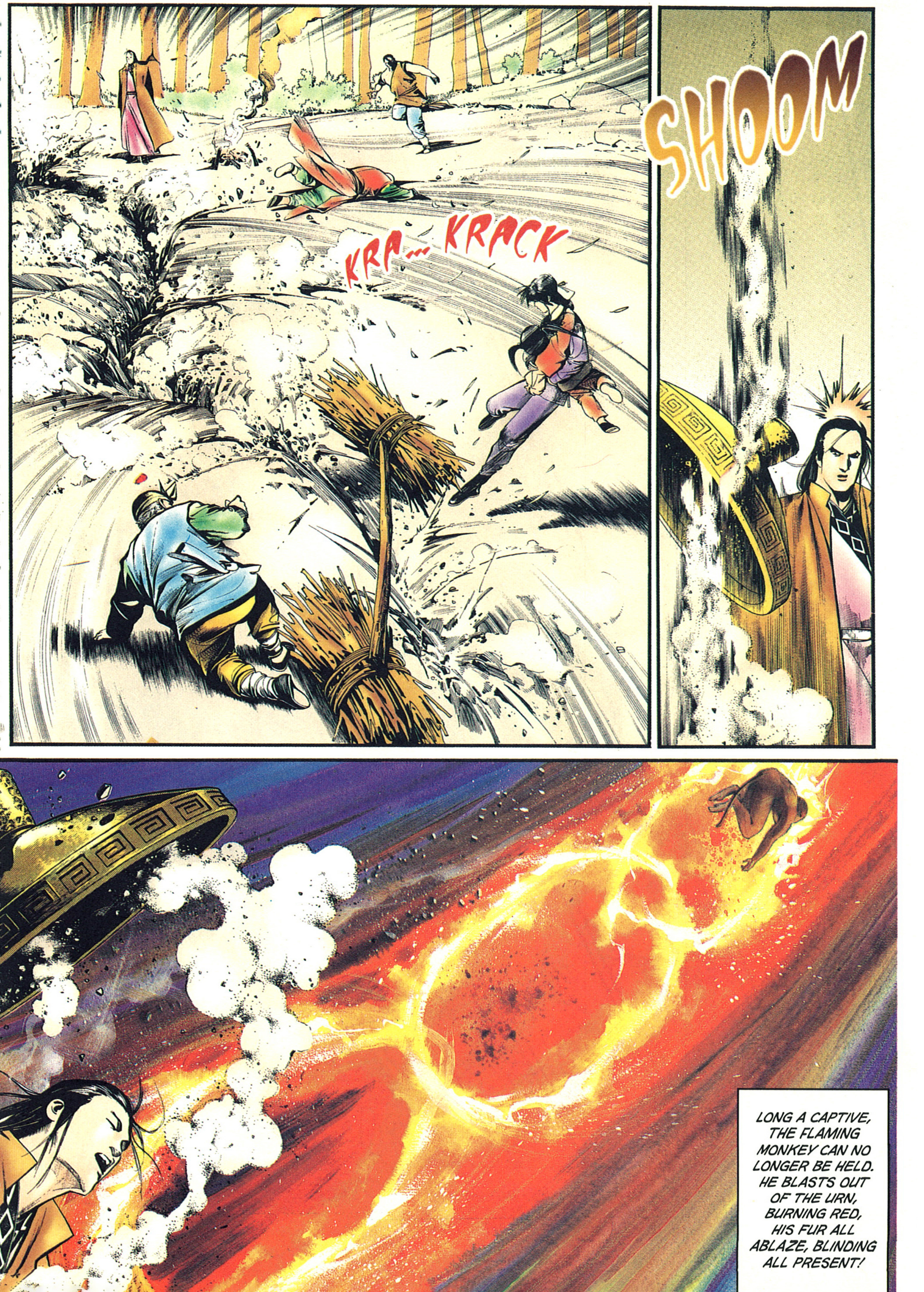

DRAGON!
SUCH A FAST ARROW...
WE'VE LOST!
BUT WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

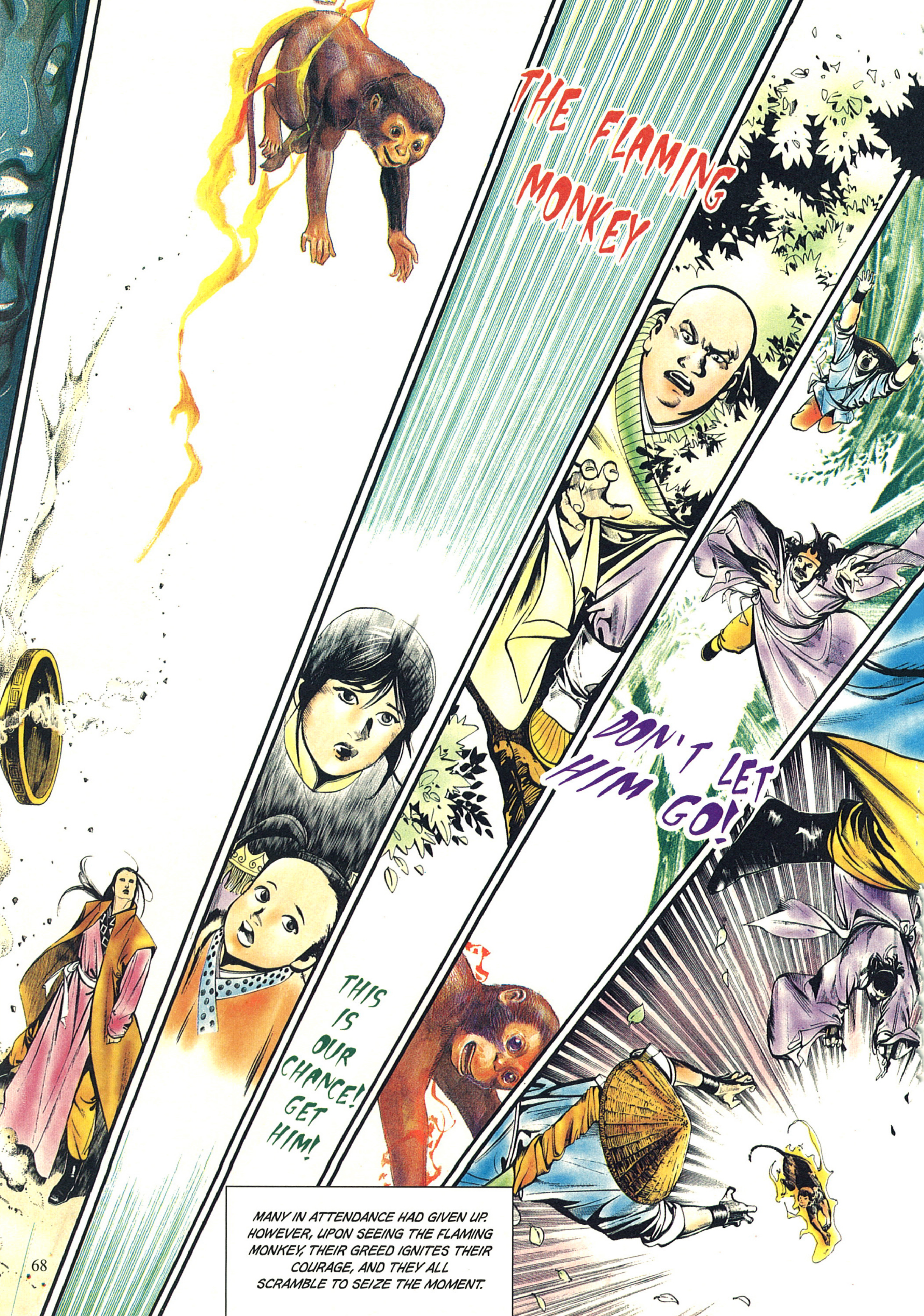

PHOENIX ARROW...
A GOD AMONG ARROWS!
WIND, YOUR FIGHTING SKILL IS ALMOST UNBEATABLE, BUT IN THE FUTURE WHEN YOU ARE BATTLING AMONGST MANY FOES, YOU SHOULD BE WARY OF PHOENIX ARROW!
SOMETHING OR SOME FORCE LIES UNDERNEATH THE URN.
WAK!
THE FLAMING MONKEY, OF KEY IMPORTANCE, CANNOT BE LOST. FROST GRASPS THE URN WITH BOTH HANDS AND PULLS WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.
AH! SOMEBODY IS TRYING TO CHEAT THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION OF THE FLAMING MONKEY! WHO WOULD DARE TO BE SO BOLD?!


THE BURROW BROTHERS - AMONG THIEVES THEY HAVE A UNIQUE SKILL. THEY EXCEL AT DIGGING HOLES, AND NOW THEY COVET THE FLAMING MONKEY. THEY HAVE ALREADY TUNNELED LONG AND FAR, AND SEEK TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO STEAL THEIR PRIZE.
BRO! THERE MUST BE SOMEBODY TRYING TO OUTMUSCLE US FROM ABOVE!
SKY RAT
HELL RAT
FORGET ABOUT HIM! JUST PULL!
HMPH! THIS MUST BE THE WORK OF THOSE BURROW BROTHERS!
THEY'VE TUNNELED TO THE WRONG MAN'S DOOR. DEATH DIGS DEEPER THAN THEY CAN!
FROST RELEASES HIS GRIP - SUDDENLY FREE, THE MOLES SHOOT DOWNWARD.

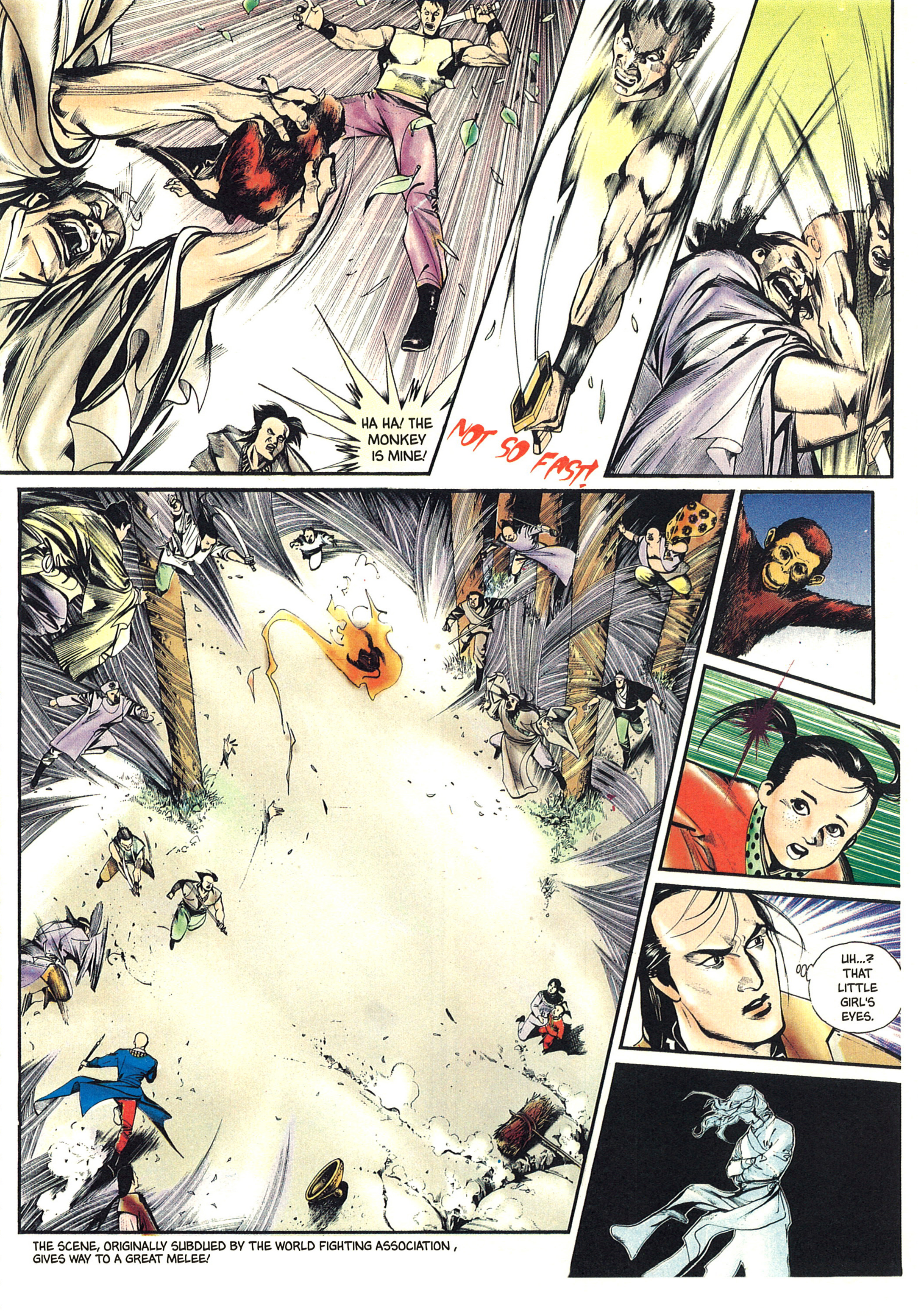

ANGER SWELLING DEEPLY FROM WITHIN, FROST'S FACE FLASHES BLUE AND GREEN.
BLASTING ONE FIST DOWN, ALL THE EARTH TREMBLES WITH HIS POWER!
CHAWOOOM

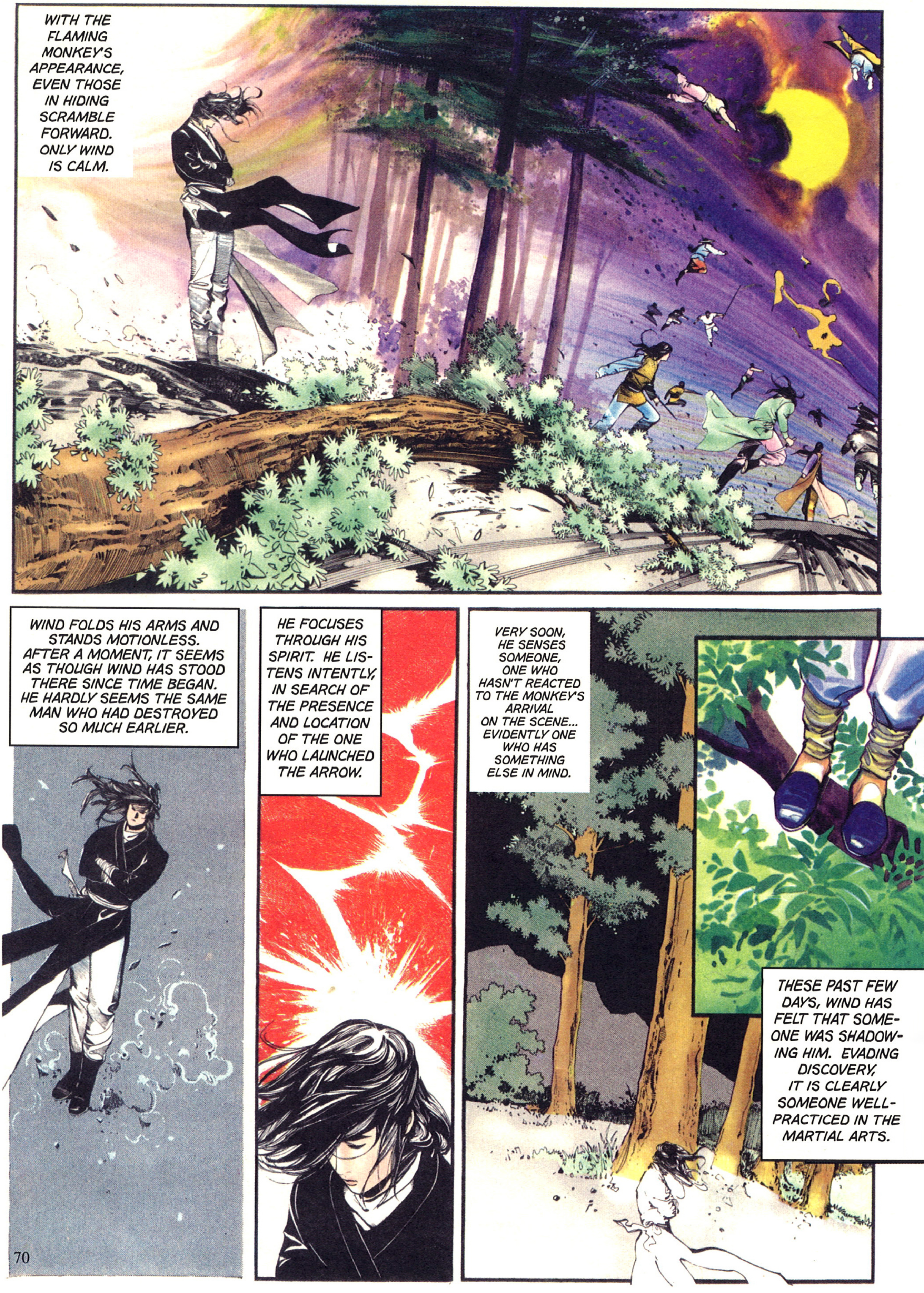

SHRACK
FWAAM
AHHH!
ARGH!

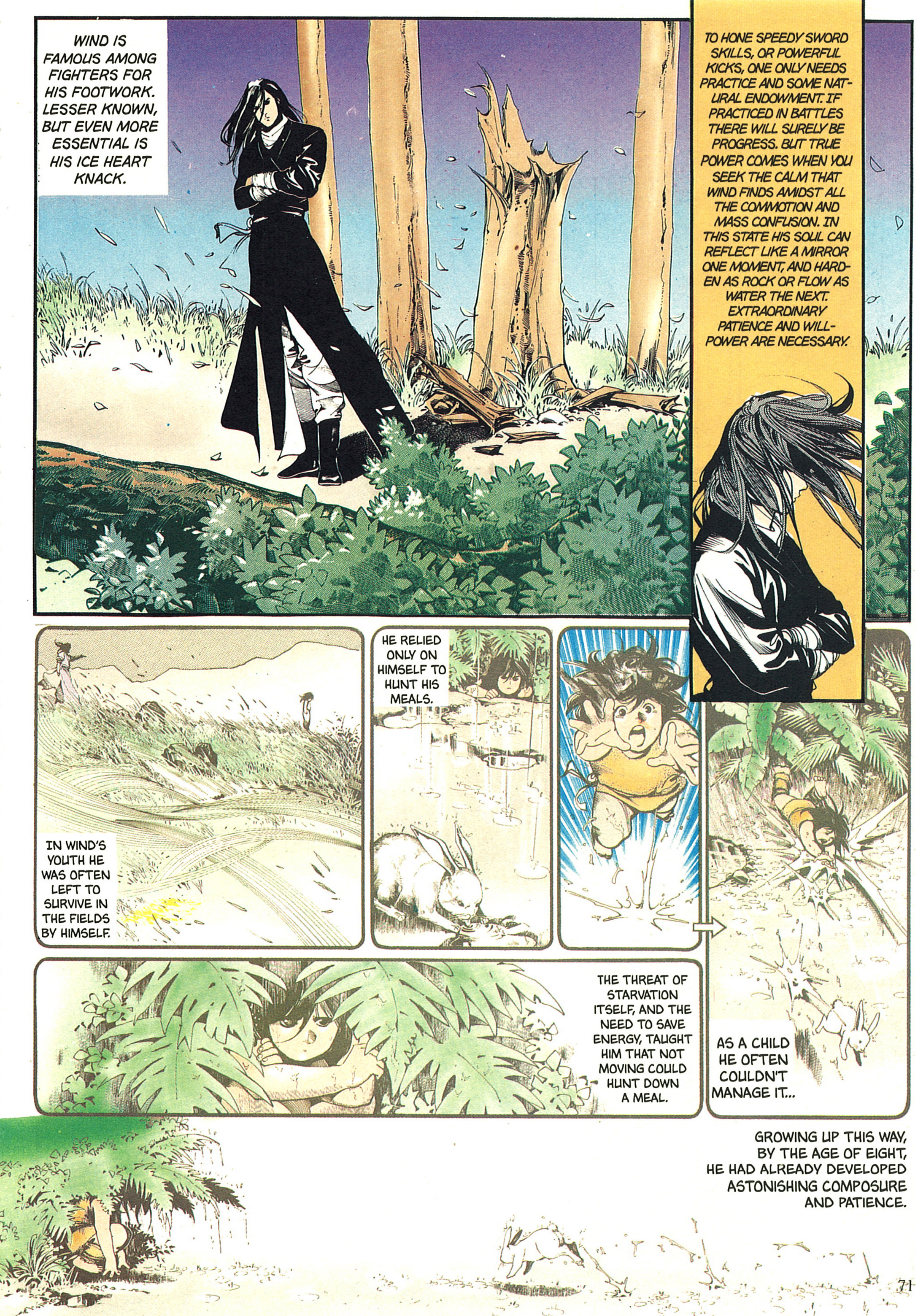

KRA... KRACK
SHOOM
LONG A CAPTIVE, THE FLAMING MONKEY CAN NO LONGER BE HELD. HE BLASTS OUT OF THE URN, BURNING RED, HIS FUR ALL ABLAZE, BLINDING ALL PRESENT!

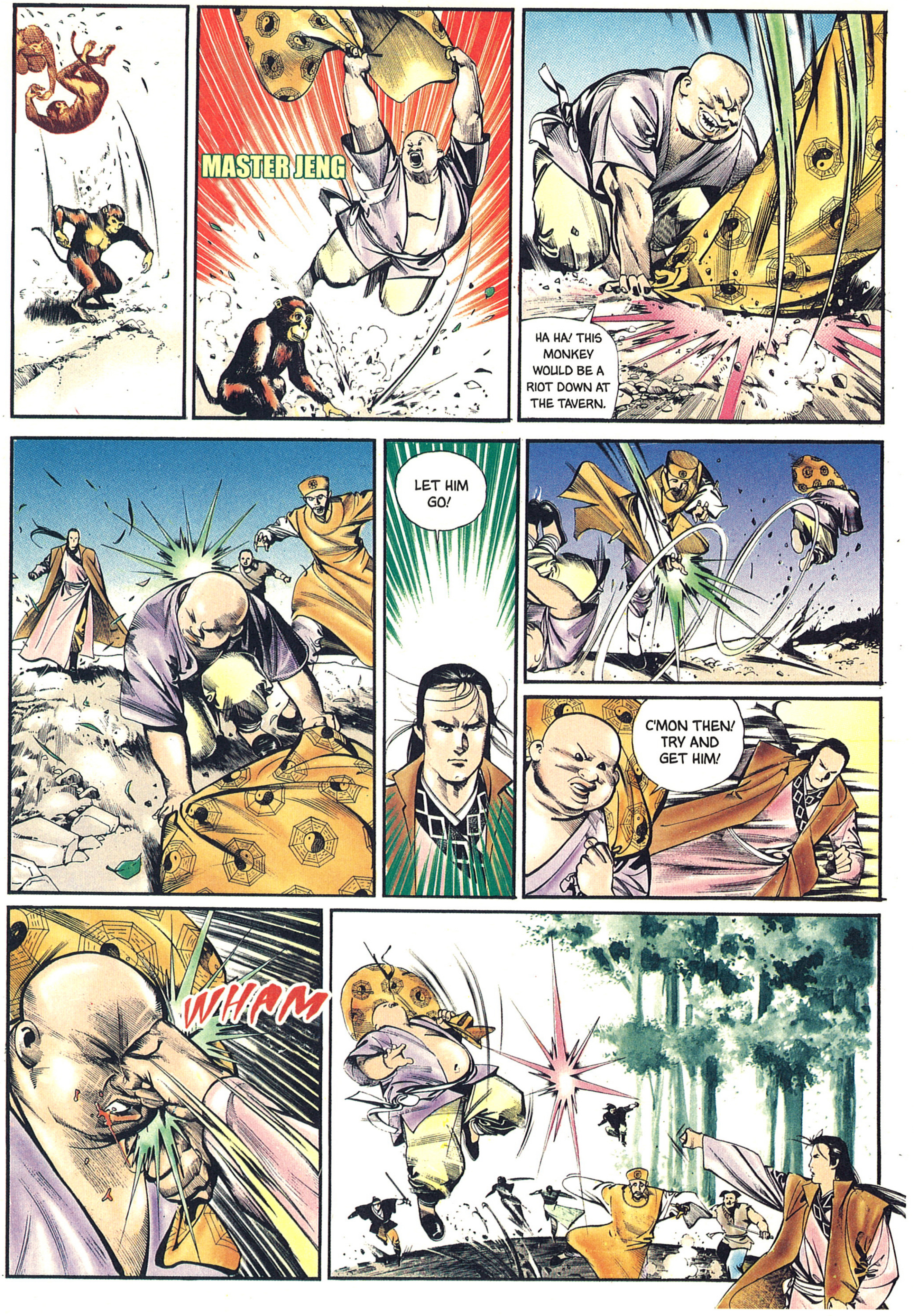

THE FLAMING MONKEY
DON'T LET HIM GO!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! GET HIM!

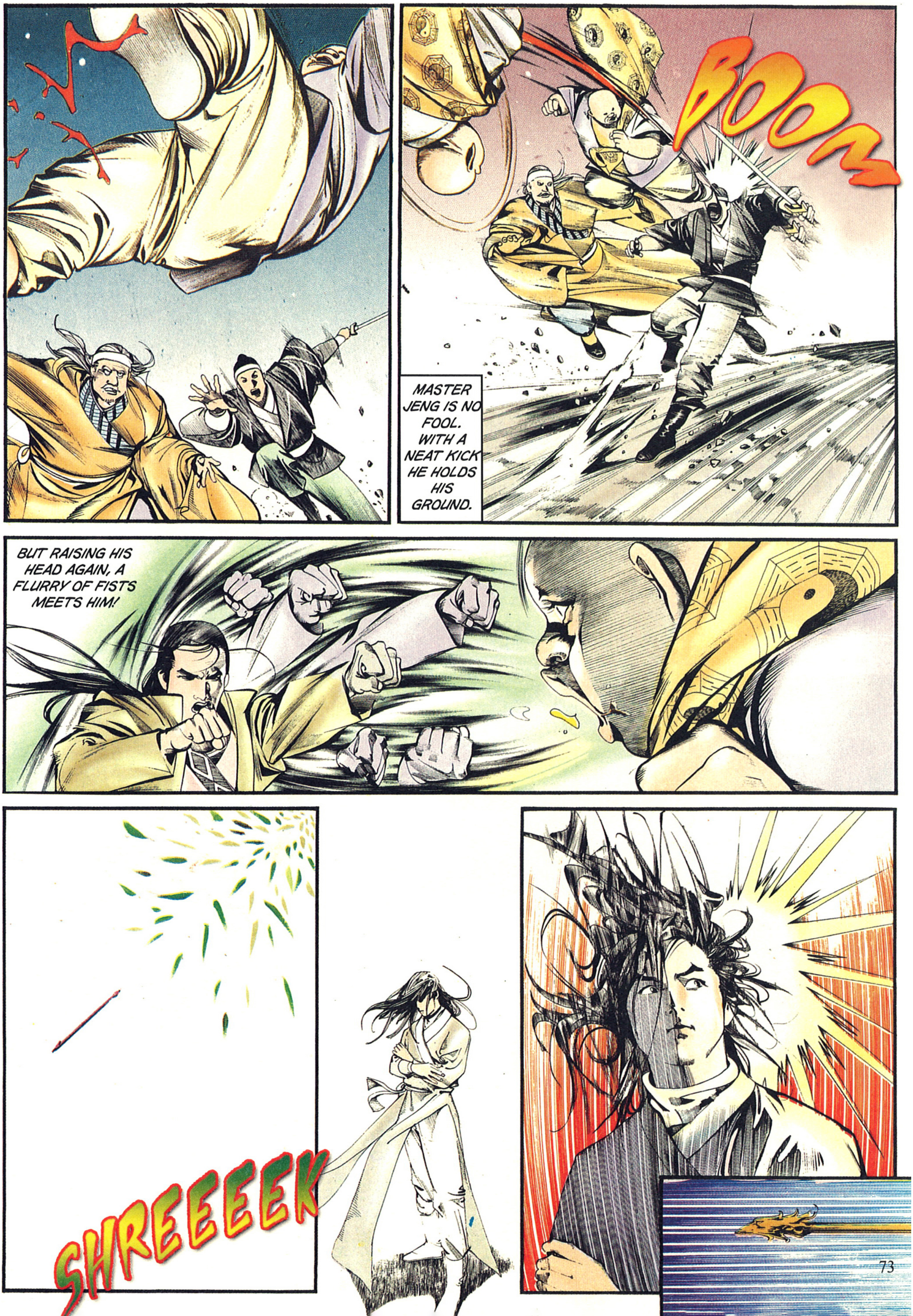
MANY IN ATTENDANCE HAD GIVEN UP. HOWEVER, UPON SEEING THE FLAMING MONKEY, THEIR GREED IGNITES THEIR COURAGE, AND THEY ALL SCRAMBLE TO SEIZE THE MOMENT.

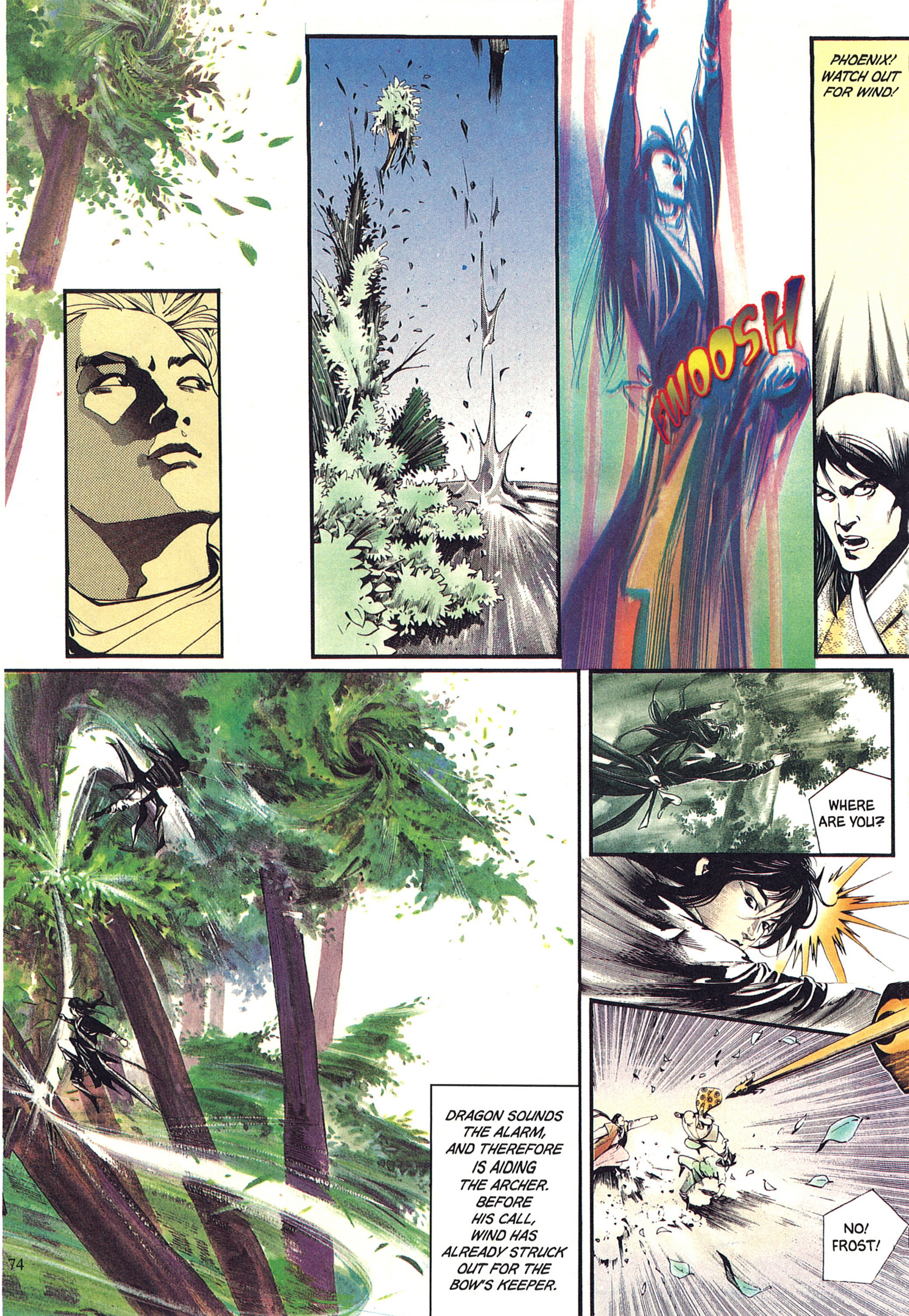

HA HA! THE MONKEY IS MINE!
NOT SO FAST!
THE SCENE, ORIGINALLY SUBDUED BY THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION, GIVES WAY TO A GREAT MELEE!
UH...? THAT LITTLE GIRL'S EYES.

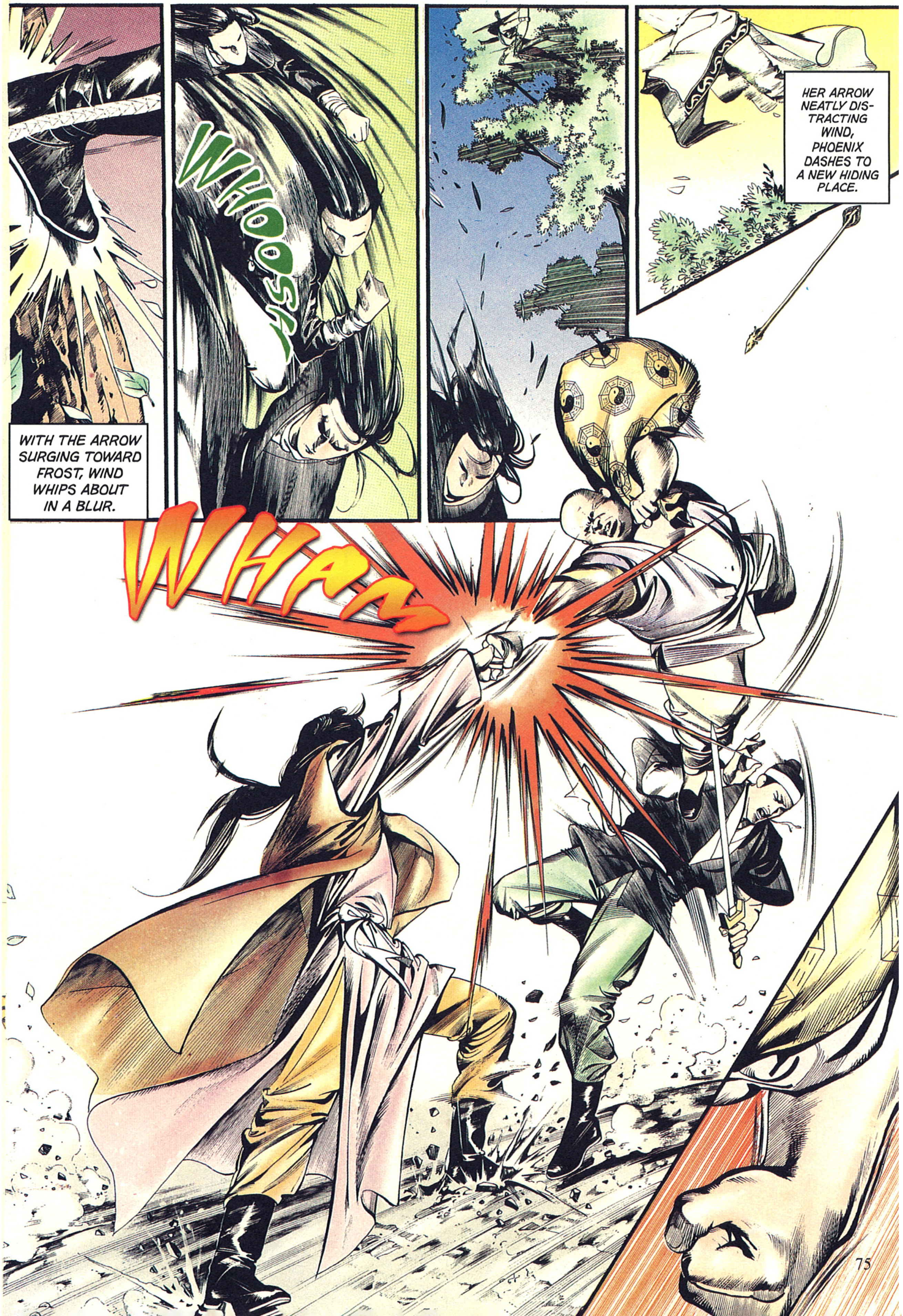

WITH THE FLAMING MONKEY'S APPEARANCE, EVEN THOSE IN HIDING SCRAMBLE FORWARD. ONLY WIND IS CALM.
WIND FOLDS HIS ARMS AND STANDS MOTIONLESS. AFTER A MOMENT, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH WIND HAS STOOD THERE SINCE TIME BEGAN. HE HARDLY SEEMS THE SAME MAN WHO HAD DESTROYED SO MUCH EARLIER.
HE FOCUSES THROUGH HIS SPIRIT. HE LISTENS INTENTLY, IN SEARCH OF THE PRESENCE AND LOCATION OF THE ONE WHO LAUNCHED THE ARROW.
VERY SOON, HE SENSES SOMEONE, ONE WHO HASN'T REACTED TO THE MONKEY'S ARRIVAL ON THE SCENE... EVIDENTLY ONE WHO HAS SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND.
THESE PAST FEW DAYS, WIND HAS FELT THAT SOMEONE WAS SHADOWING HIM. EVADING DISCOVERY, IT IS CLEARLY SOMEONE WELL-PRACTICED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS.

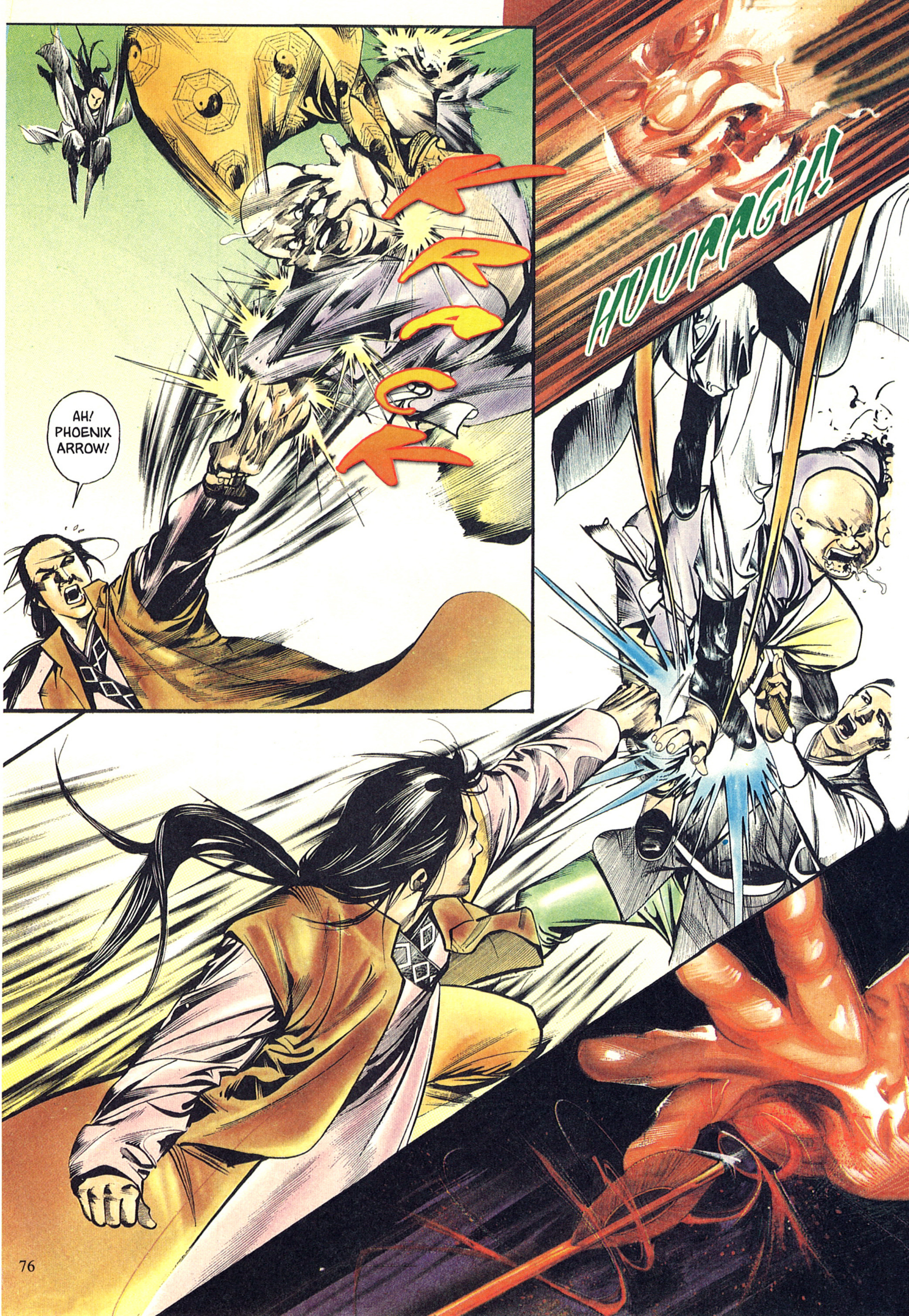

WIND IS FAMOUS AMONG FIGHTERS FOR HIS FOOTWORK. LESSER KNOWN, BUT EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL IS HIS ICE HEART KNACK.
TO HONE SPEEDY SWORD SKILLS, OR POWERFUL KICKS, ONE ONLY NEEDS PRACTICE AND SOME NATURAL ENDOWMENT. IF PRACTICED IN BATTLES THERE WILL SURELY BE PROGRESS. BUT TRUE POWER COMES WHEN YOU SEEK THE CALM THAT WIND FINDS AMIDST ALL THE COMMOTION AND MASS CONFUSION. IN THIS STATE HIS SOUL CAN REFLECT LIKE A MIRROR ONE MOMENT, AND HARDEN AS ROCK OR FLOW AS WATER THE NEXT. EXTRAORDINARY PATIENCE AND WILLPOWER ARE NECESSARY.
IN WIND'S YOUTH HE WAS OFTEN LEFT TO SURVIVE IN THE FIELDS BY HIMSELF.
HE RELIED ONLY ON HIMSELF TO HUNT HIS MEALS.
AS A CHILD HE OFTEN COULDN'T MANAGE IT...
THE THREAT OF STARVATION ITSELF, AND THE NEED TO SAVE ENERGY, TAUGHT HIM THAT NOT MOVING COULD HUNT DOWN A MEAL.
GROWING UP THIS WAY, BY THE AGE OF EIGHT, HE HAD ALREADY DEVELOPED ASTONISHING COMPOSURE AND PATIENCE.

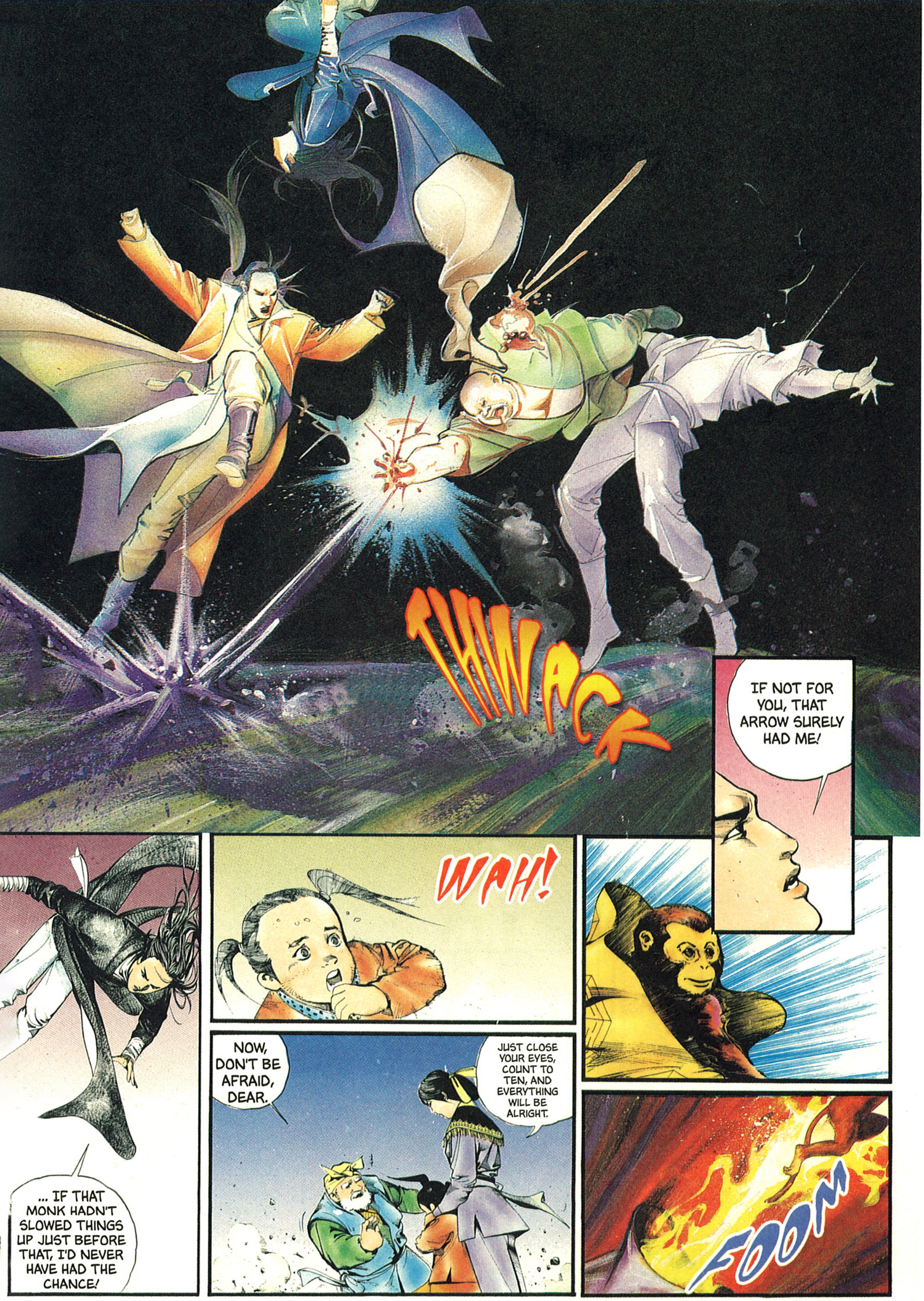

MASTER JENG
HA HA! THIS MONKEY WOULD BE A RIOT DOWN AT THE TAVERN.
LET HIM GO!
C'MON THEN! TRY AND GET HIM!
WHAM

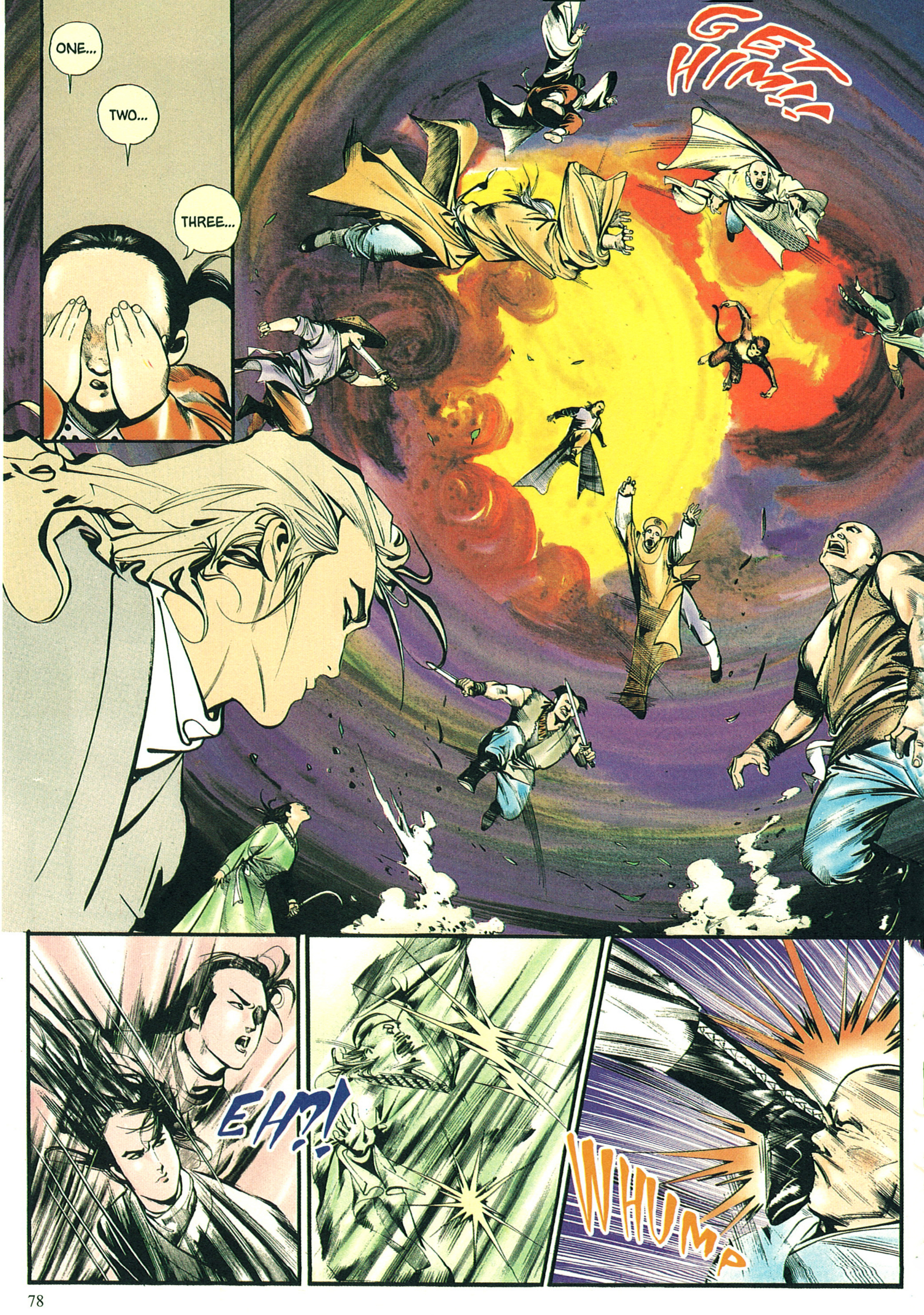

BOOM
MASTER JENG IS NO FOOL. WITH A NEAT KICK HE HOLDS HIS GROUND.
BUT RAISING HIS HEAD AGAIN, A FLURRY OF FISTS MEETS HIM!
SHREEEEK

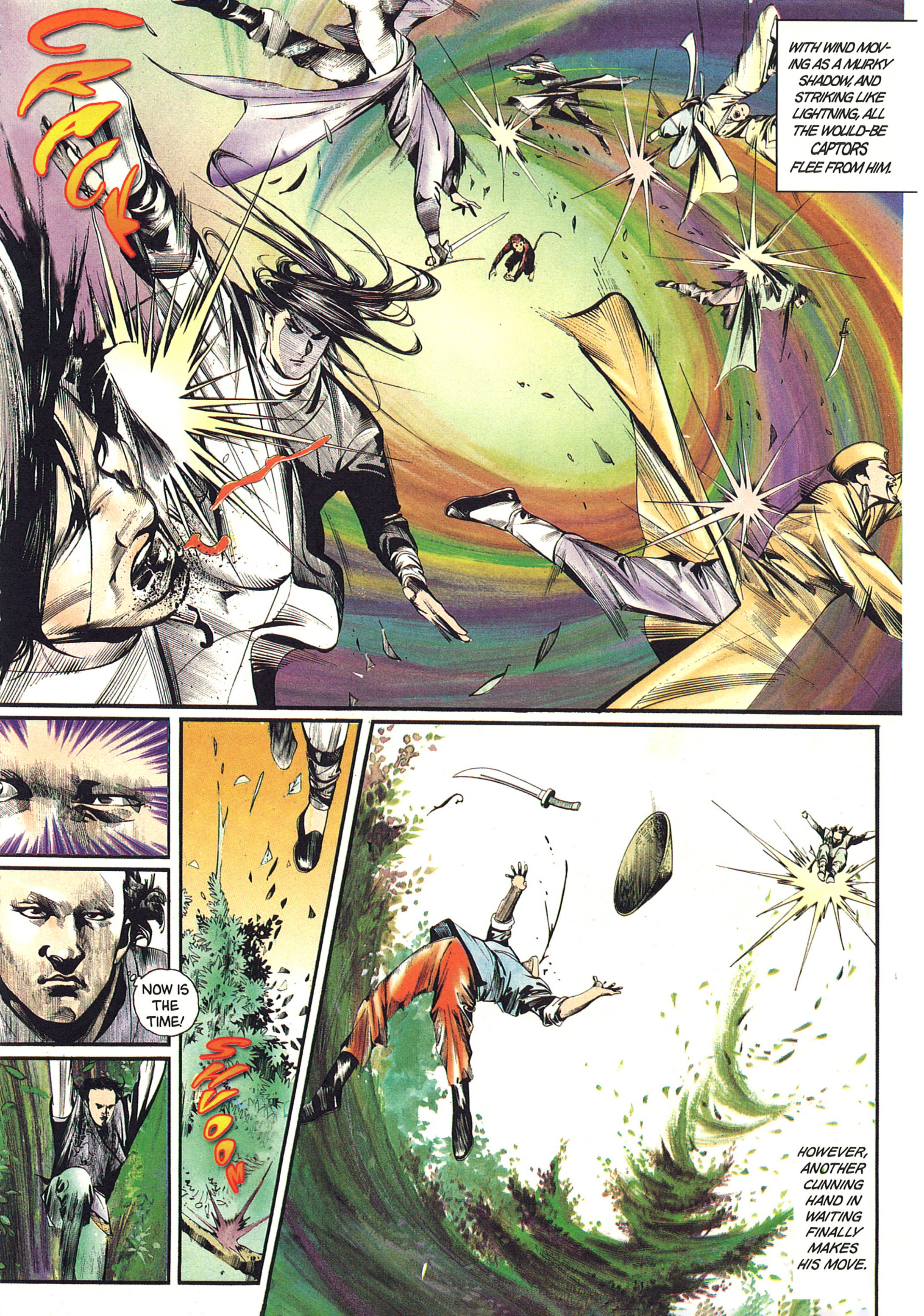

FWOOSH
PHOENIX! WATCH OUT FOR WIND!
DRAGON SOUNDS THE ALARM, AND THEREFORE IS AIDING THE ARCHER. BEFORE HIS CALL, WIND HAS ALREADY STRUCK OUT FOR THE BOW'S KEEPER.
WHERE ARE YOU?
NO! FROST!


WITH THE ARROW SURGING TOWARD FROST, WIND WHIPS ABOUT IN A BLUR.
WHOOSH
HER ARROW NEATLY DISTRACTING WIND, PHOENIX DASHES TO A NEW HIDING PLACE.
WHAM

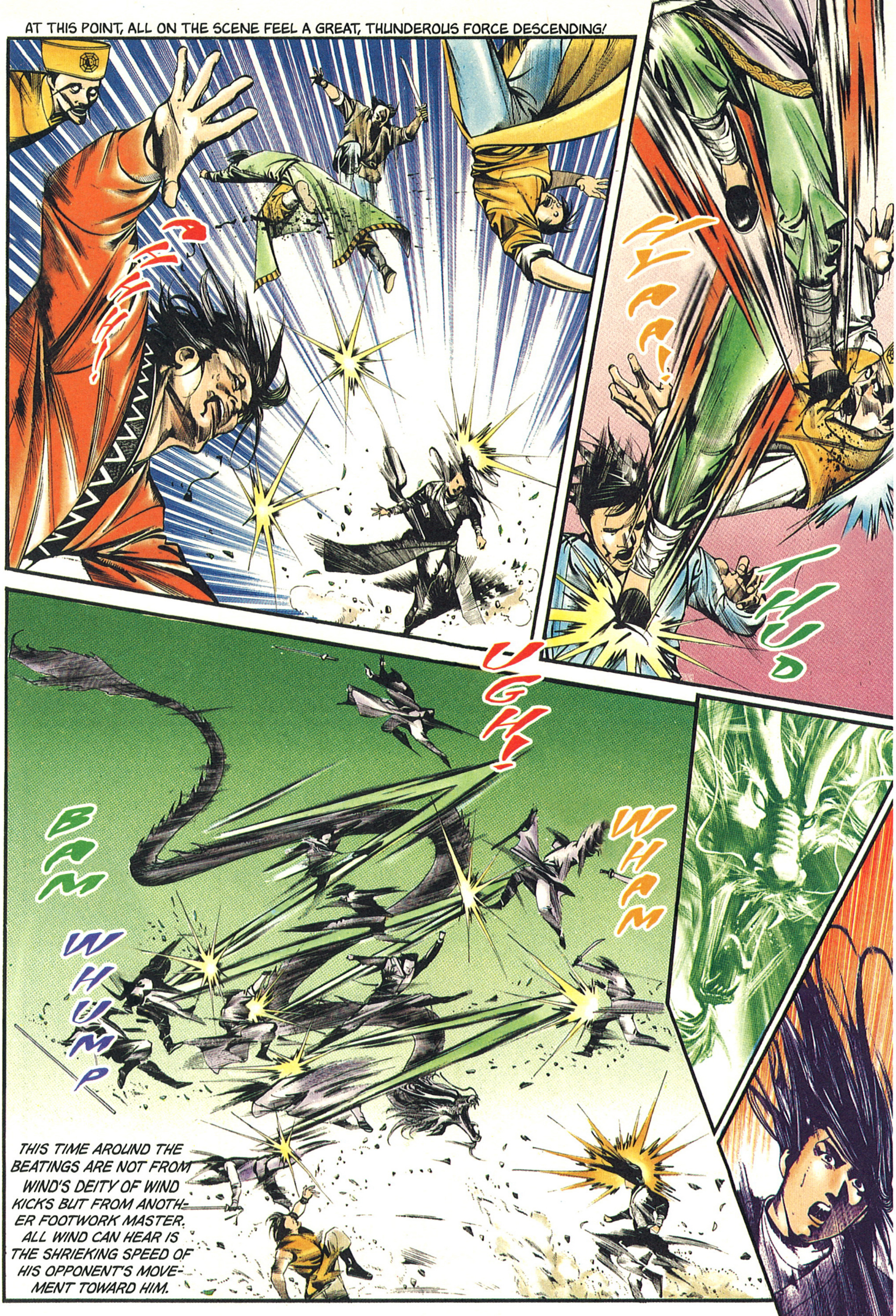

AH! PHOENIX ARROW!
KRACK
HUUAAGH!

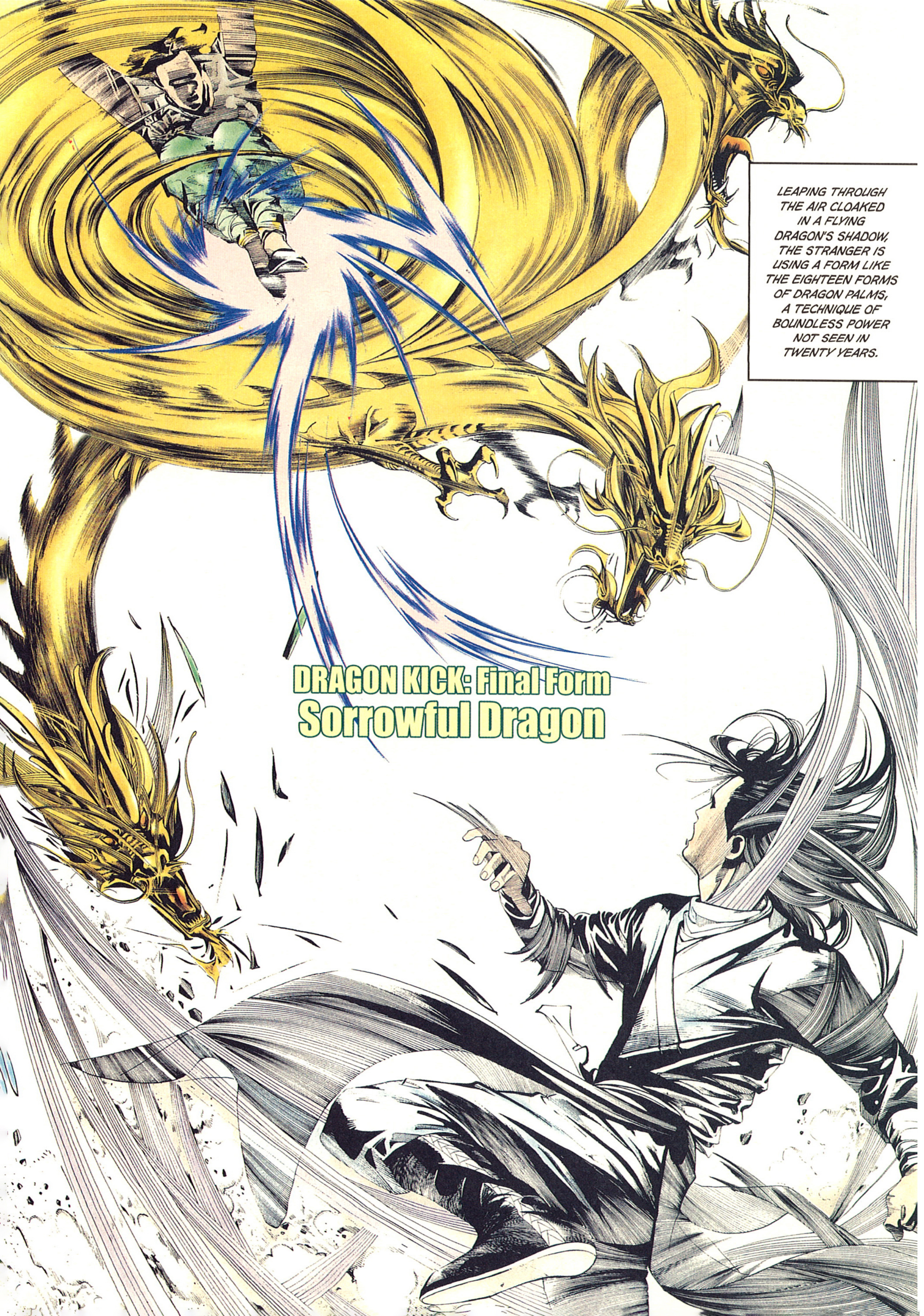

THWACK
IF NOT FOR YOU, THAT ARROW SURELY HAD ME!
... IF THAT MONK HADN'T SLOWED THINGS UP JUST BEFORE THAT, I'D NEVER HAVE HAD THE CHANCE!
WAH!
NOW, DON'T BE AFRAID, DEAR.
JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES, COUNT TO TEN, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT.
FOOM

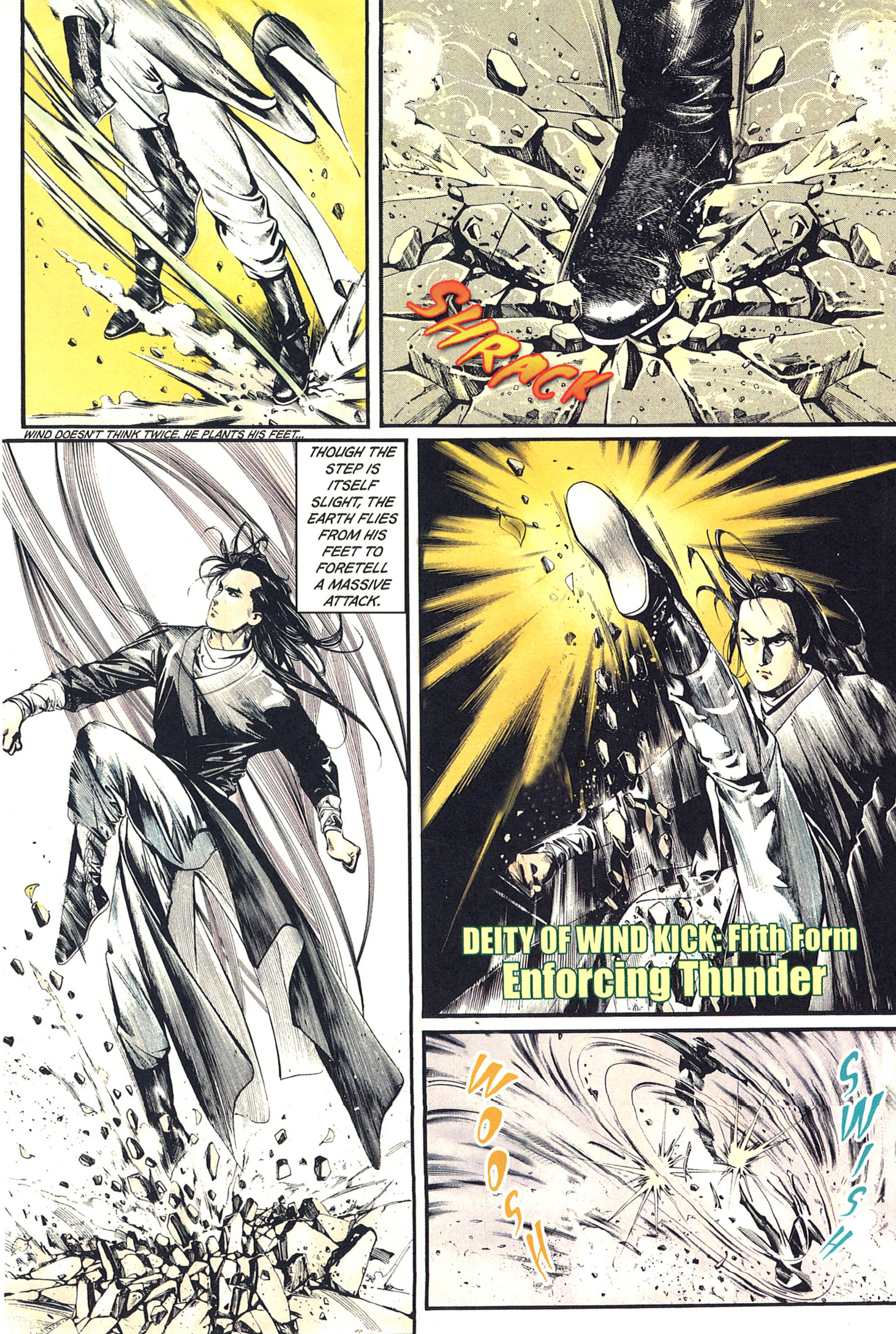

ONE...
TWO...
THREE...
GET HIM!!
EH?!
WHUMP

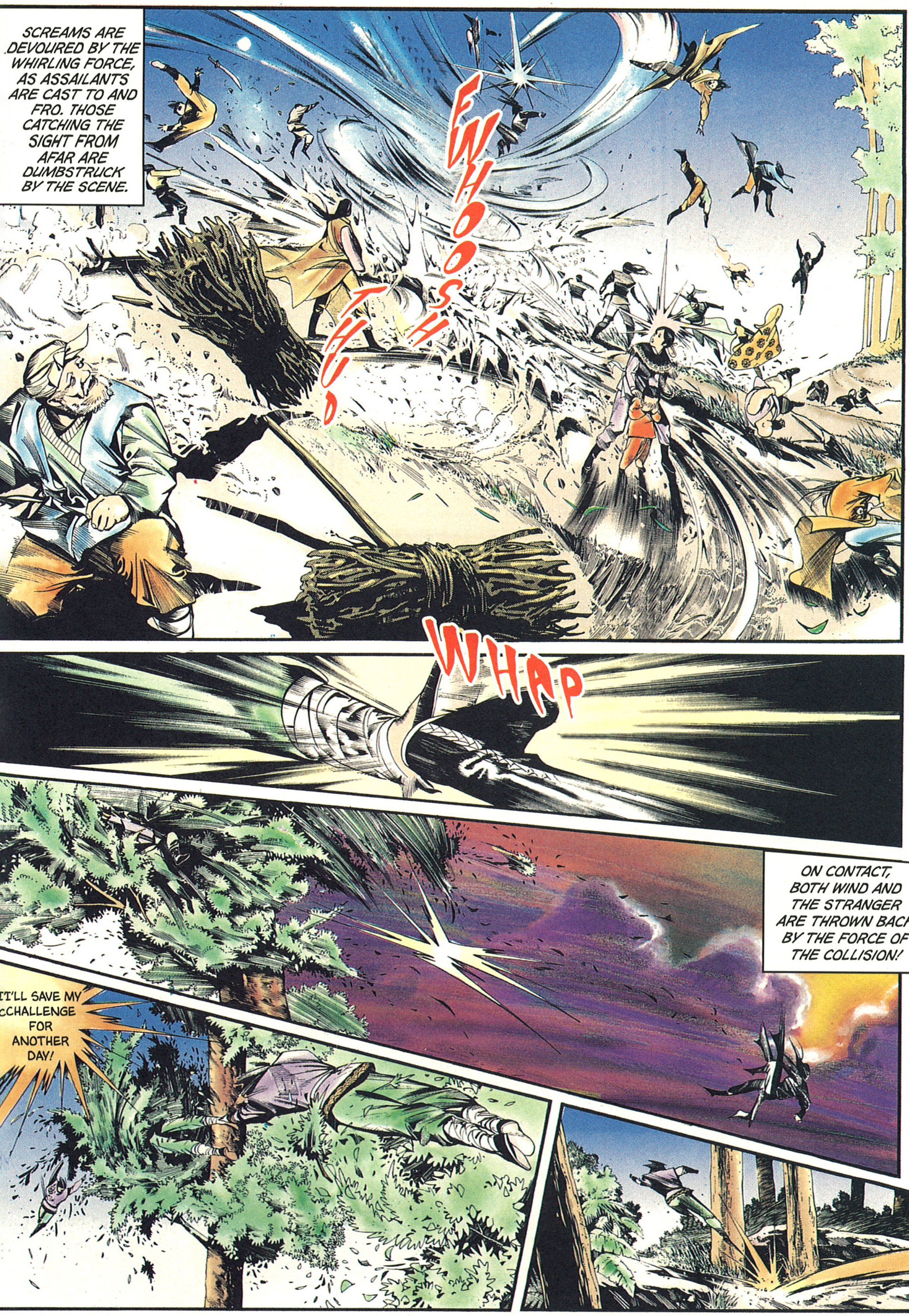

CRACK
WITH WIND MOVING AS A MURKY SHADOW, AND STRIKING LIKE LIGHTNING, ALL THE WOULD-BE CAPTORS FLEE FROM HIM.
NOW IS THE TIME!
SHWOOM
HOWEVER, ANOTHER CUNNING HAND IN WAITING FINALLY MAKES HIS MOVE.

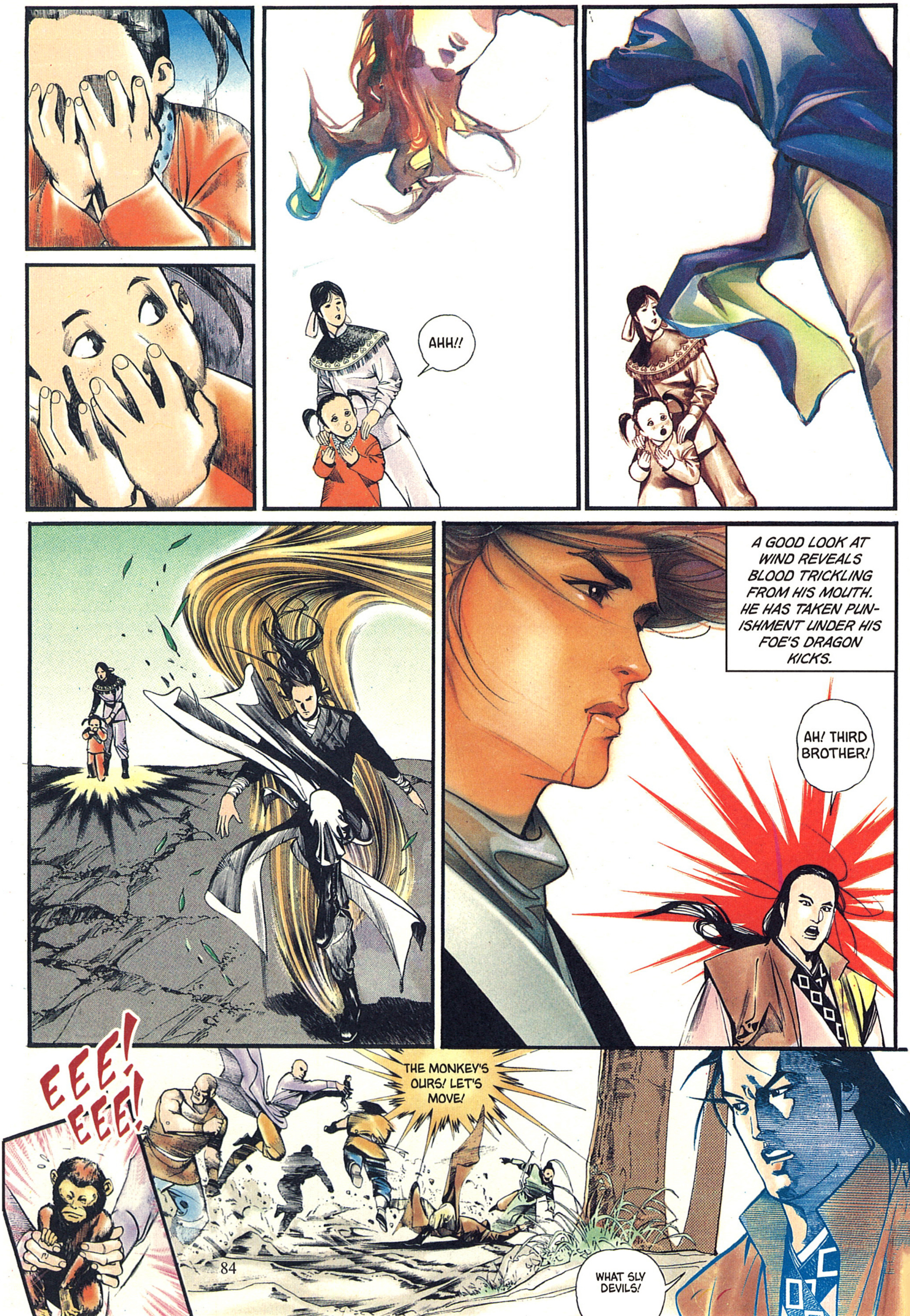
AT THIS POINT, ALL ON THE SCENE FEEL A GREAT, THUNDEROUS FORCE DESCENDING!

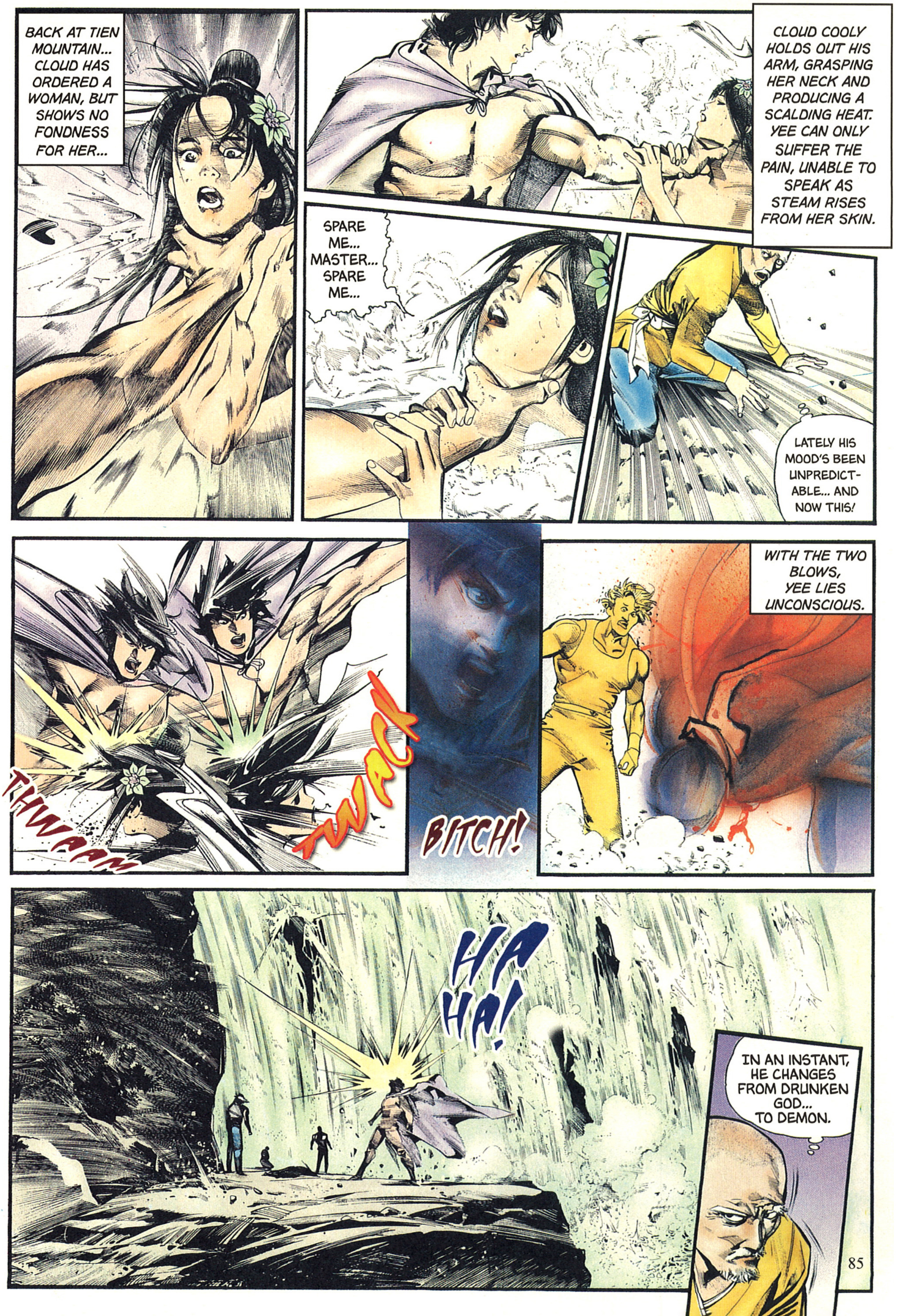

AHH!
HYAA!
THUD
UGH!
BAM
WHUMP
WHAM
THIS TIME AROUND THE BEATINGS ARE NOT FROM WIND'S DEITY OF WIND KICKS BUT FROM ANOTHER FOOTWORK MASTER. ALL WIND CAN HEAR IS THE SHRIEKING SPEED OF HIS OPPONENT'S MOVEMENT TOWARD HIM.

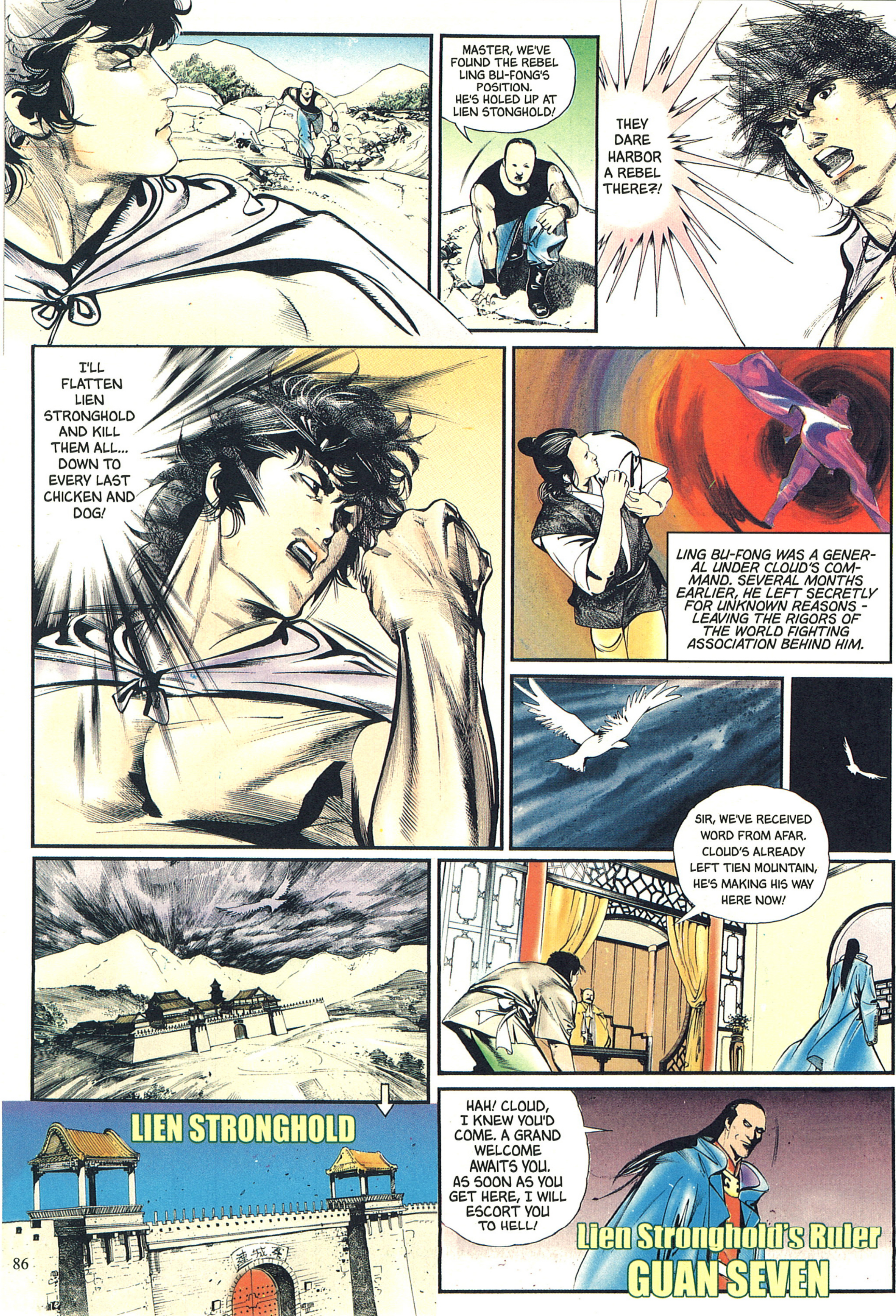

LEAPING THROUGH THE AIR CLOAKED IN A FLYING DRAGON'S SHADOW, THE STRANGER IS USING A FORM LIKE THE EIGHTEEN FORMS OF DRAGON PALMS, A TECHNIQUE OF BOUNDLESS POWER NOT SEEN IN TWENTY YEARS.
DRAGON KICK: Final Form
Sorrowful Dragon

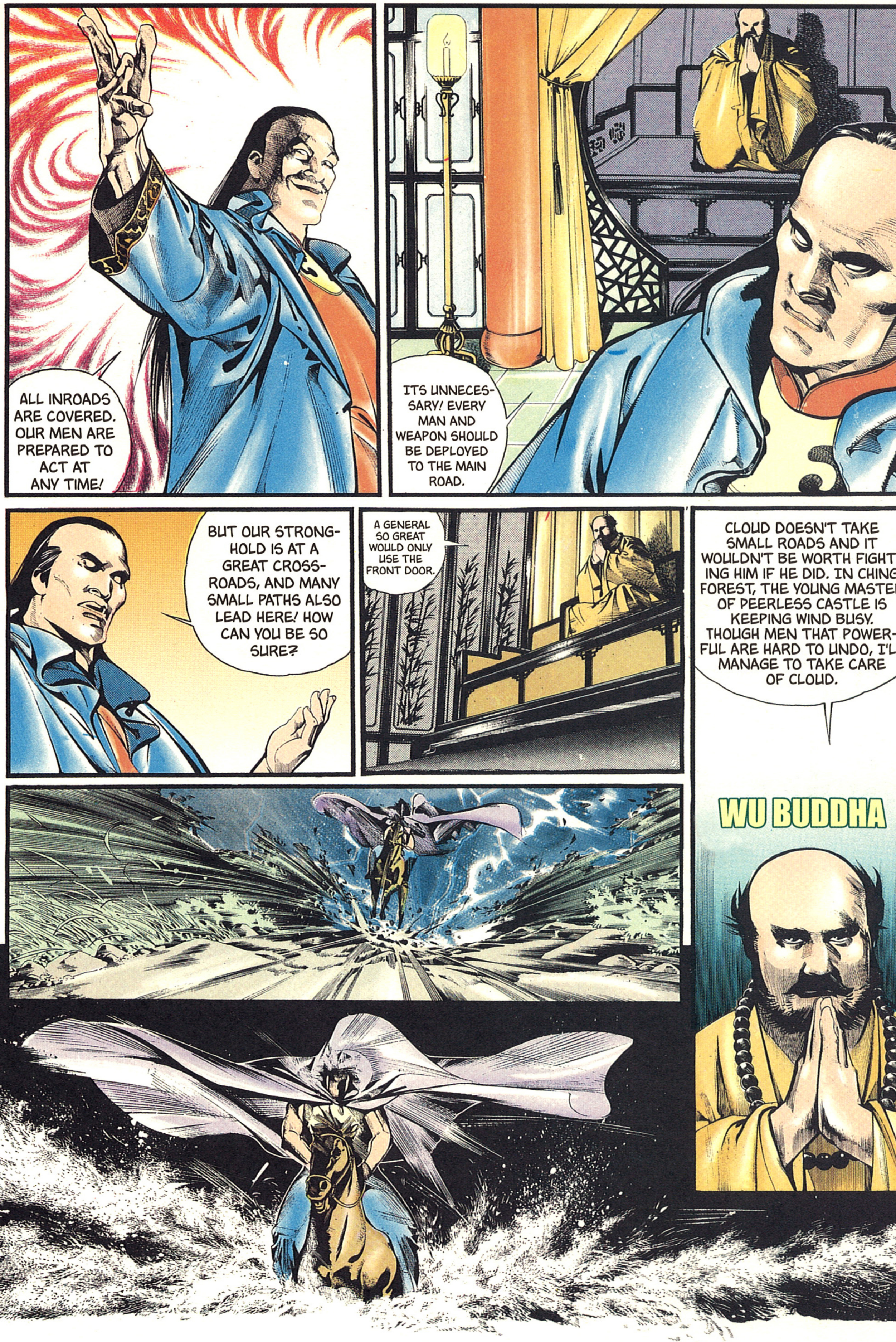

SHRACK
WIND DOESN'T THINK TWICE. HE PLANTS HIS FEET...
THOUGH THE STEP IS ITSELF SLIGHT, THE EARTH FLIES FROM HIS FEET TO FORETELL A MASSIVE ATTACK.
DEITY OF WIND KICK: Fifth Form
Enforcing Thunder
WOOSH
SWISH


SCREAMS ARE DEVOURED BY THE WHIRLING FORCE, AS ASSAILANTS ARE CAST TO AND FRO. THOSE CATCHING THE SIGHT FROM AFAR ARE DUMBSTRUCK BY THE SCENE.
FWHOOSH
THUD
WHAP
ON CONTACT, BOTH WIND AND THE STRANGER ARE THROWN BACK BY THE FORCE OF THE COLLISION!
I'LL SAVE MY CHALLENGE FOR ANOTHER DAY!

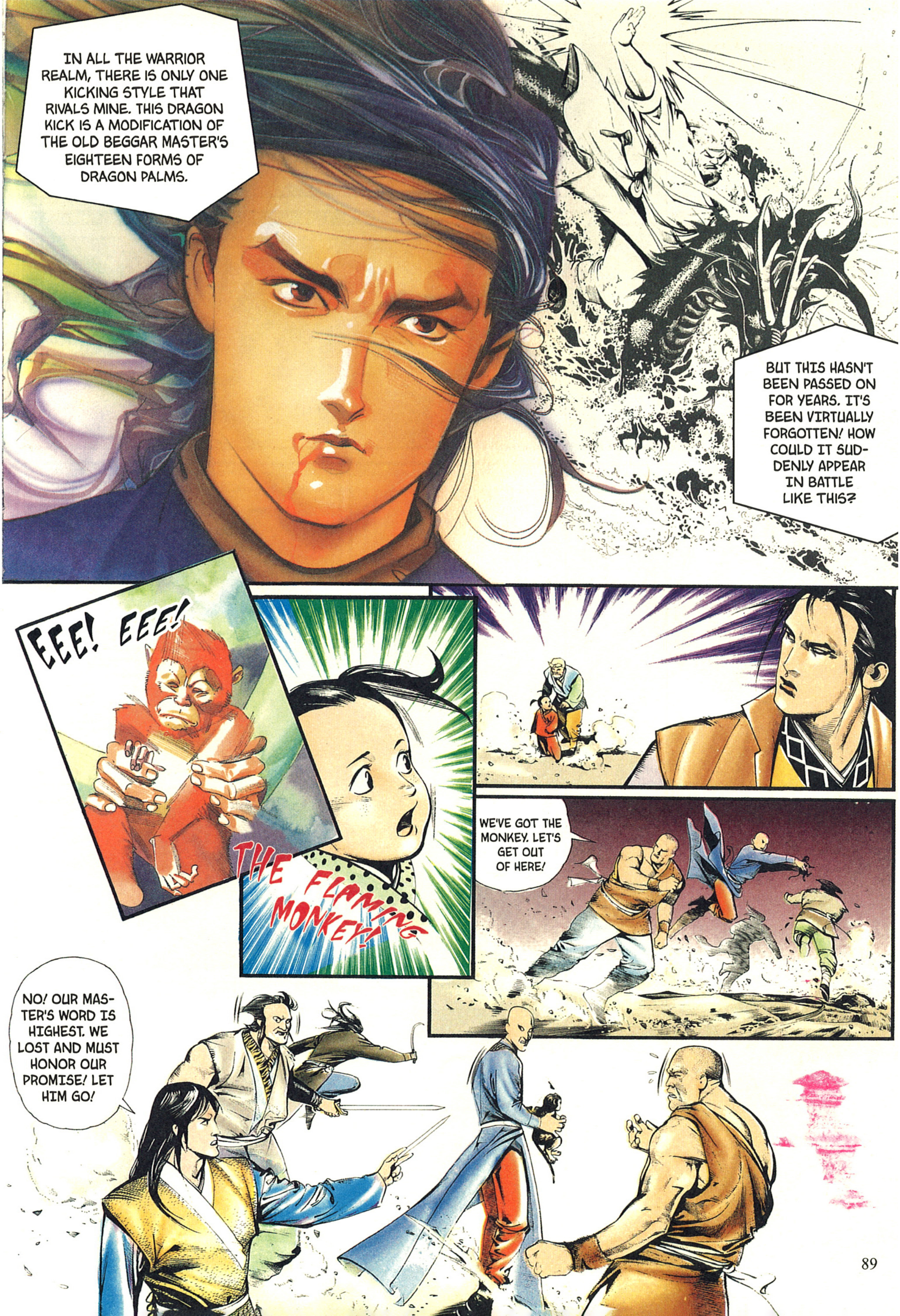

AHH!!
A GOOD LOOK AT WIND REVEALS BLOOD TRICKLING FROM HIS MOUTH. HE HAS TAKEN PUNISHMENT UNDER HIS FOE'S DRAGON KICKS.
AH! THIRD BROTHER!
EEE! EEE!
THE MONKEY'S OURS! LET'S MOVE!
WHAT SLY DEVILS!

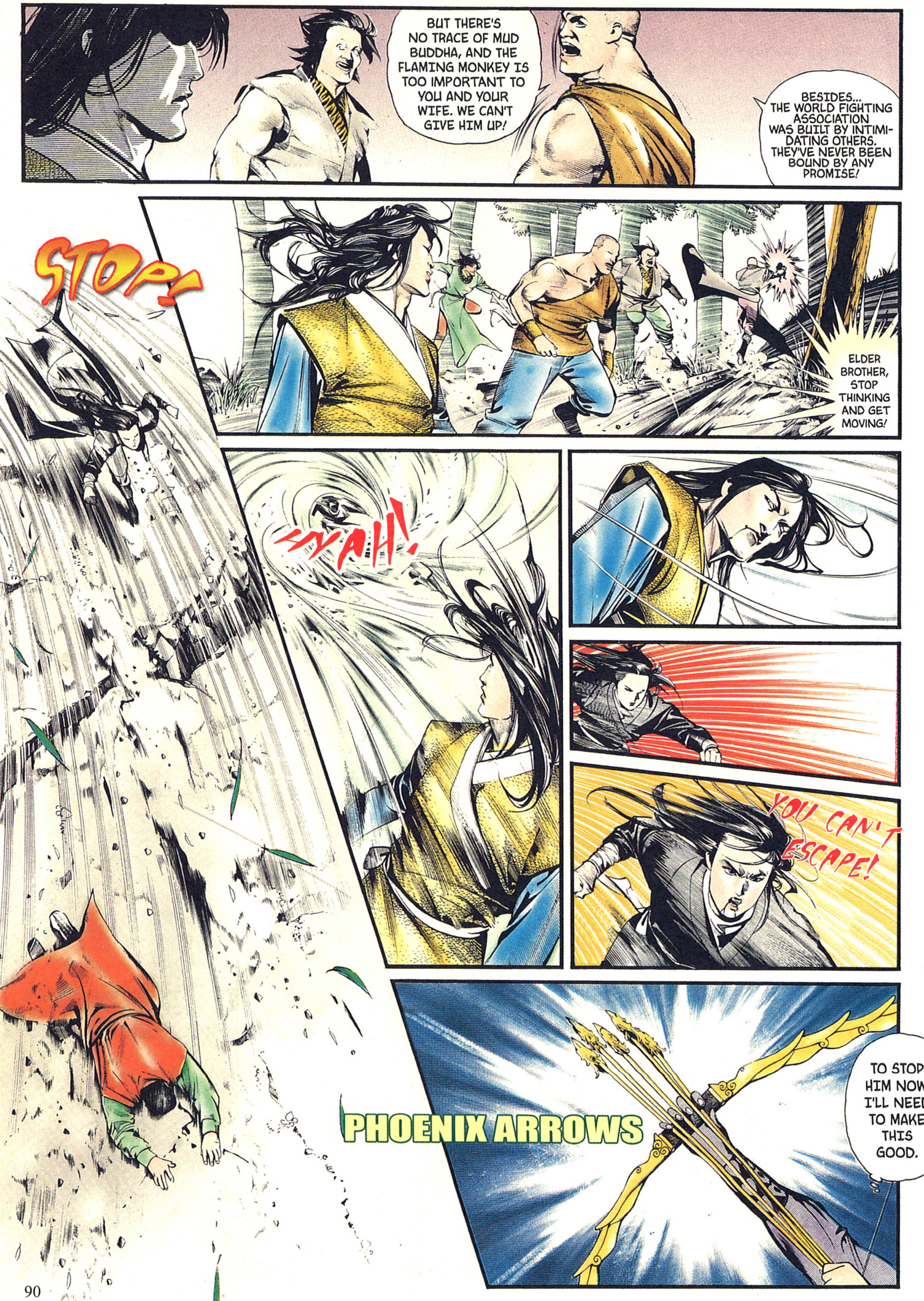

BACK AT TIEN MOUNTAIN... CLOUD HAS ORDERED A WOMAN, BUT SHOWS NO FONDNESS FOR HER...
CLOUD COOLY HOLDS OUT HIS ARM, GRASPING HER NECK AND PRODUCING A SCALDING HEAT. YEE CAN ONLY SUFFER THE PAIN, UNABLE TO SPEAK AS STEAM RISES FROM HER SKIN.
SPARE ME... MASTER... SPARE ME...
LATELY HIS MOOD'S BEEN UNPREDICTABLE... AND NOW THIS!
THWAAM
TWACK
BITCH!
WITH THE TWO BLOWS, YEE LIES UNCONSCIOUS.
HA HA!
IN AN INSTANT, HE CHANGES FROM DRUNKEN GOD... TO DEMON.

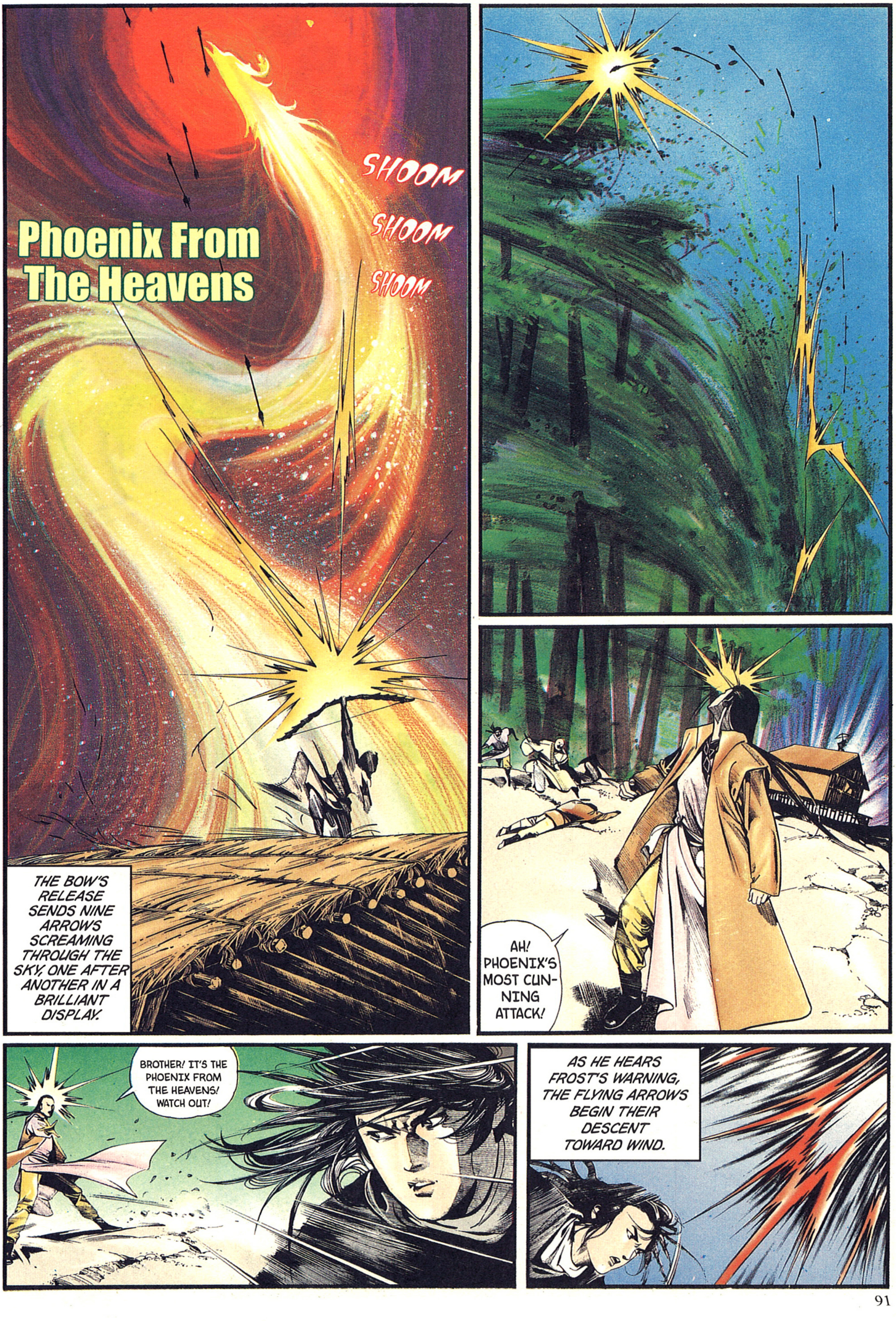

MASTER, WE'VE FOUND THE REBEL LING BU-FONG'S POSITION. HE'S HOLED UP AT LIEN STONGHOLD!
THEY DARE HARBOR A REBEL THERE?!
I'LL FLATTEN LIEN STRONGHOLD AND KILL THEM ALL... DOWN TO EVERY LAST CHICKEN AND DOG!
LING BU-FONG WAS A GENERAL UNDER CLOUD'S COMMAND. SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER, HE LEFT SECRETLY FOR UNKNOWN REASONS - LEAVING THE RIGORS OF THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION BEHIND HIM.
SIR, WE'VE RECEIVED WORD FROM AFAR. CLOUD'S ALREADY LEFT TIEN MOUNTAIN, HE'S MAKING HIS WAY HERE NOW!
LIEN STRONGHOLD
HAH! CLOUD, I KNEW YOU'D COME. A GRAND WELCOME AWAITS YOU. AS SOON AS YOU GET HERE, I WILL ESCORT YOU TO HELL!
Lien Stronghold's Ruler
GUAN SEVEN

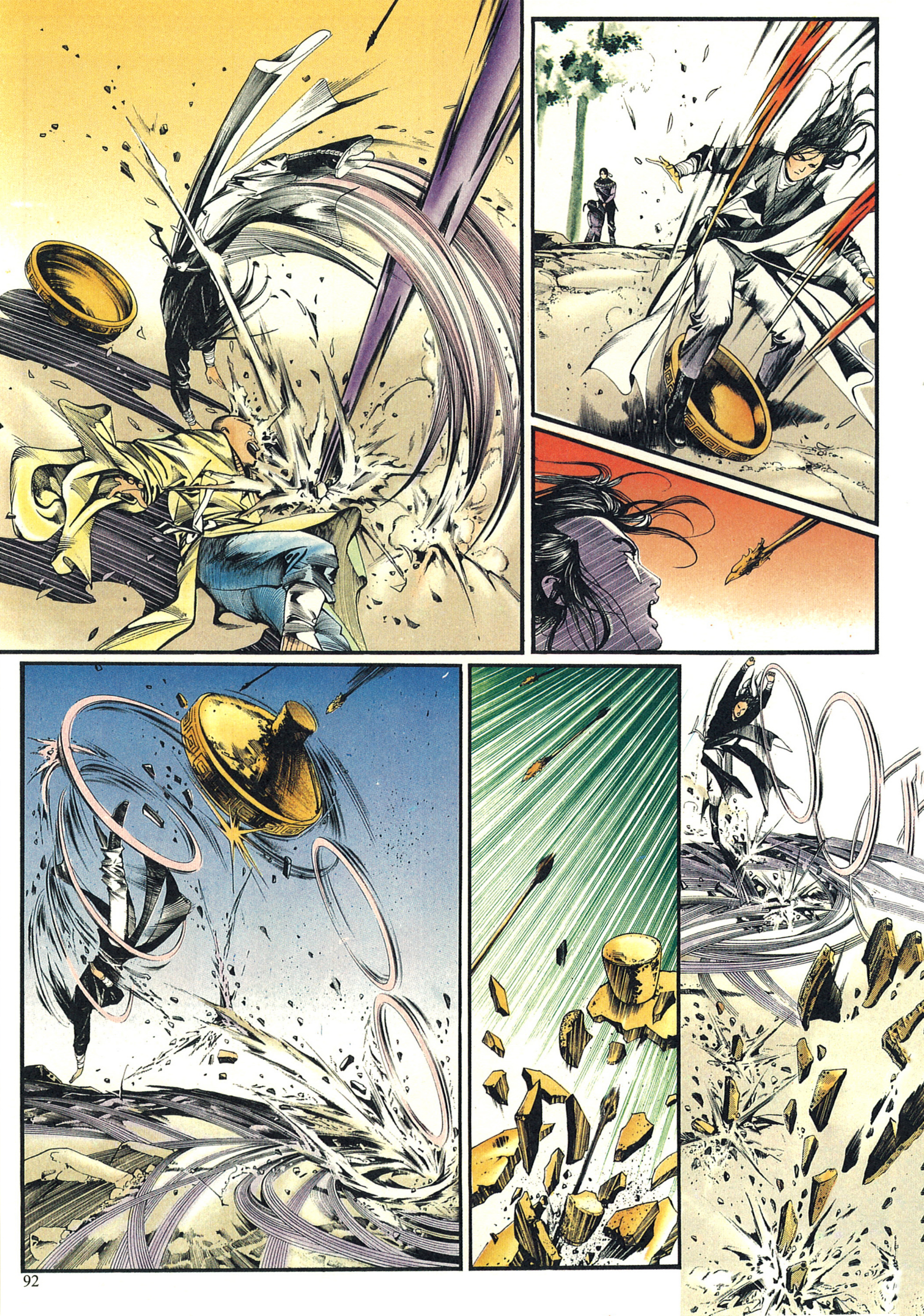

ALL INROADS ARE COVERED. OUR MEN ARE PREPARED TO ACT AT ANY TIME!
ITS UNNECESSARY! EVERY MAN AND WEAPON SHOULD BE DEPLOYED TO THE MAIN ROAD.
BUT OUR STRONGHOLD IS AT A GREAT CROSSROADS, AND MANY SMALL PATHS ALSO LEAD HERE! HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
A GENERAL SO GREAT WOULD ONLY USE THE FRONT DOOR.
CLOUD DOESN'T TAKE SMALL ROADS AND IT WOULDN'T BE WORTH FIGHTING HIM IF HE DID. IN CHING FOREST, THE YOUNG MASTER OF PEERLESS CASTLE IS KEEPING WIND BUSY. THOUGH MEN THAT POWERFUL ARE HARD TO UNDO, I'LL MANAGE TO TAKE CARE OF CLOUD.
WU BUDDHA

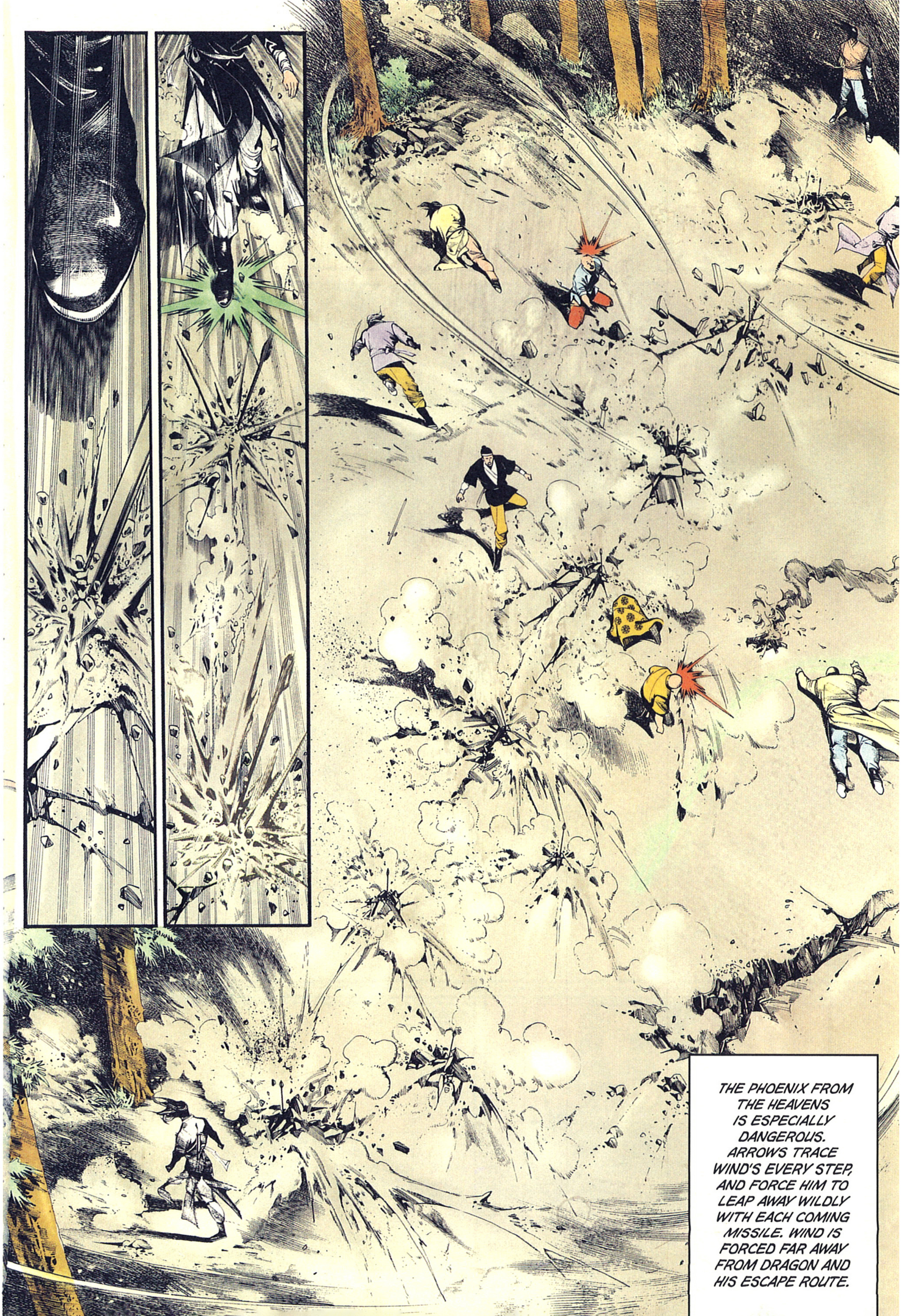
Chapter 8: Phoenix From The Heavens

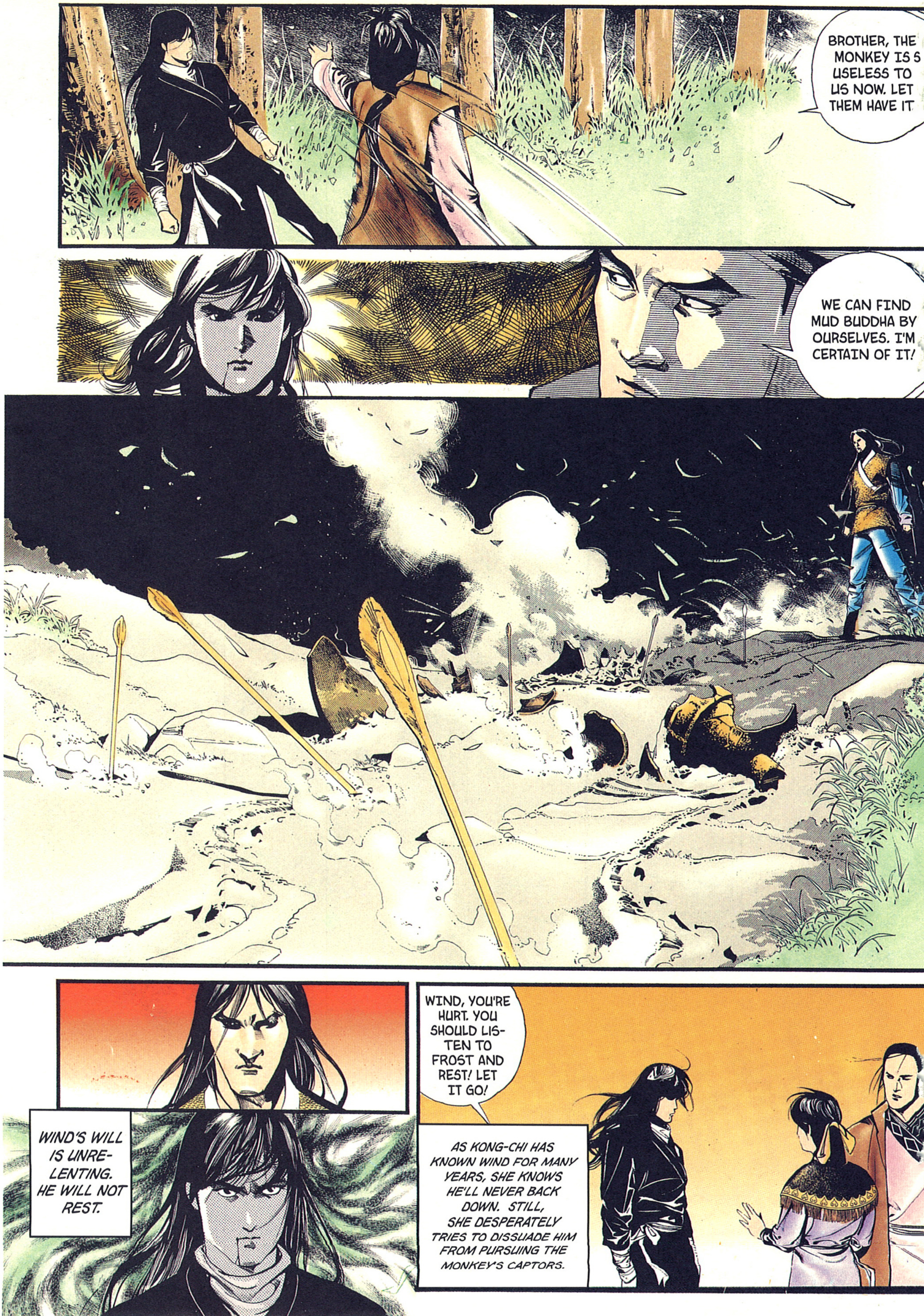

IN ALL THE WARRIOR REALM, THERE IS ONLY ONE KICKING STYLE THAT RIVALS MINE. THIS DRAGON KICK IS A MODIFICATION OF THE OLD BEGGAR MASTER'S EIGHTEEN FORMS OF DRAGON PALMS.
BUT THIS HASN'T BEEN PASSED ON FOR YEARS. IT'S BEEN VIRTUALLY FORGOTTEN! HOW COULD IT SUDDENLY APPEAR IN BATTLE LIKE THIS?
EEE! EEE!
THE FLAMING MONKEY!
WE'VE GOT THE MONKEY. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
NO! OUR MASTER'S WORD IS HIGHEST. WE LOST AND MUST HONOR OUR PROMISE! LET HIM GO!

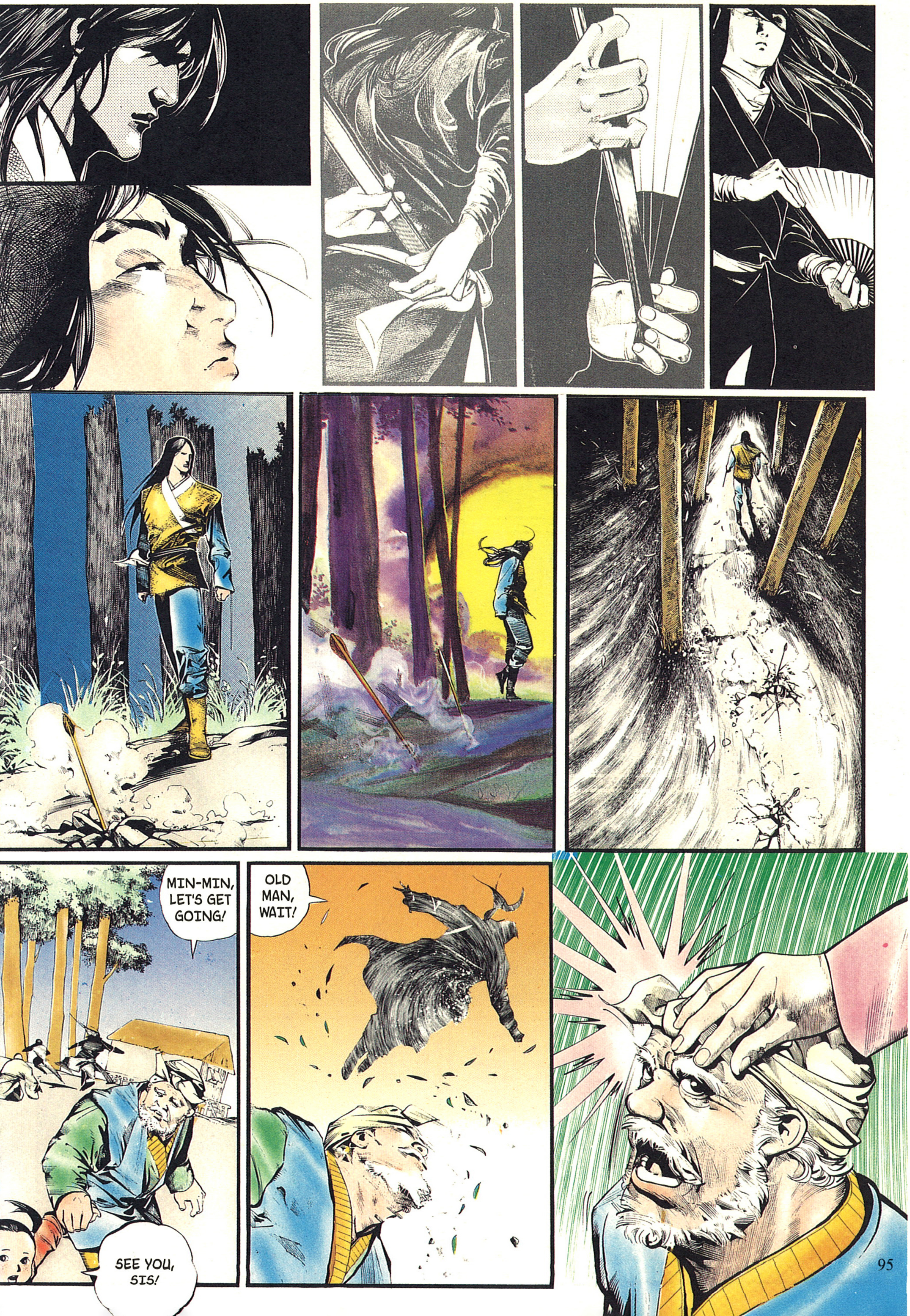

BUT THERE'S NO TRACE OF MUD BUDDHA, AND THE FLAMING MONKEY IS TOO IMPORTANT TO YOU AND YOUR WIFE. WE CAN'T GIVE HIM UP!
BESIDES... THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION WAS BUILT BY INTIMIDATING OTHERS. THEY'VE NEVER BEEN BOUND BY ANY PROMISE!
STOP!
ELDER BROTHER, STOP THINKING AND GET MOVING!
HYAH!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!
PHOENIX ARROWS
TO STOP HIM NOW, I'LL NEED TO MAKEE THIS GOOD.

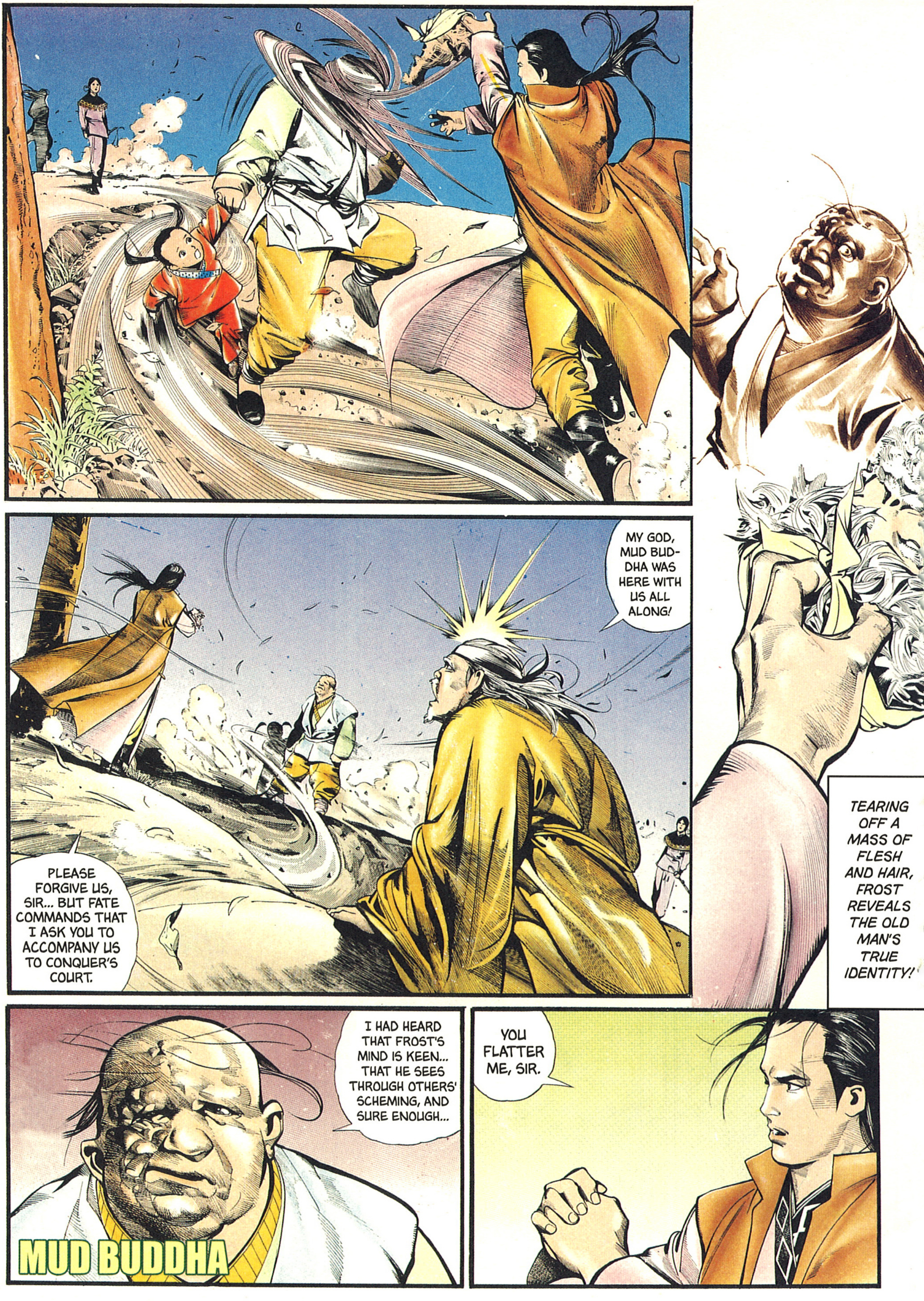

Phoenix From The Heavens
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
THE BOW'S RELEASE SENDS NINE ARROWS SCREAMING THROUGH THE SKY, ONE AFTER ANOTHER IN A BRILLIANT DISPLAY.
AH! PHOENIX'S MOST CUNNING ATTACK!
BROTHER! IT'S THE PHOENIX FROM THE HEAVENS! WATCH OUT!
AS HE HEARS FROST'S WARNING, THE FLYING ARROWS BEGIN THEIR DESCENT TOWARD WIND.

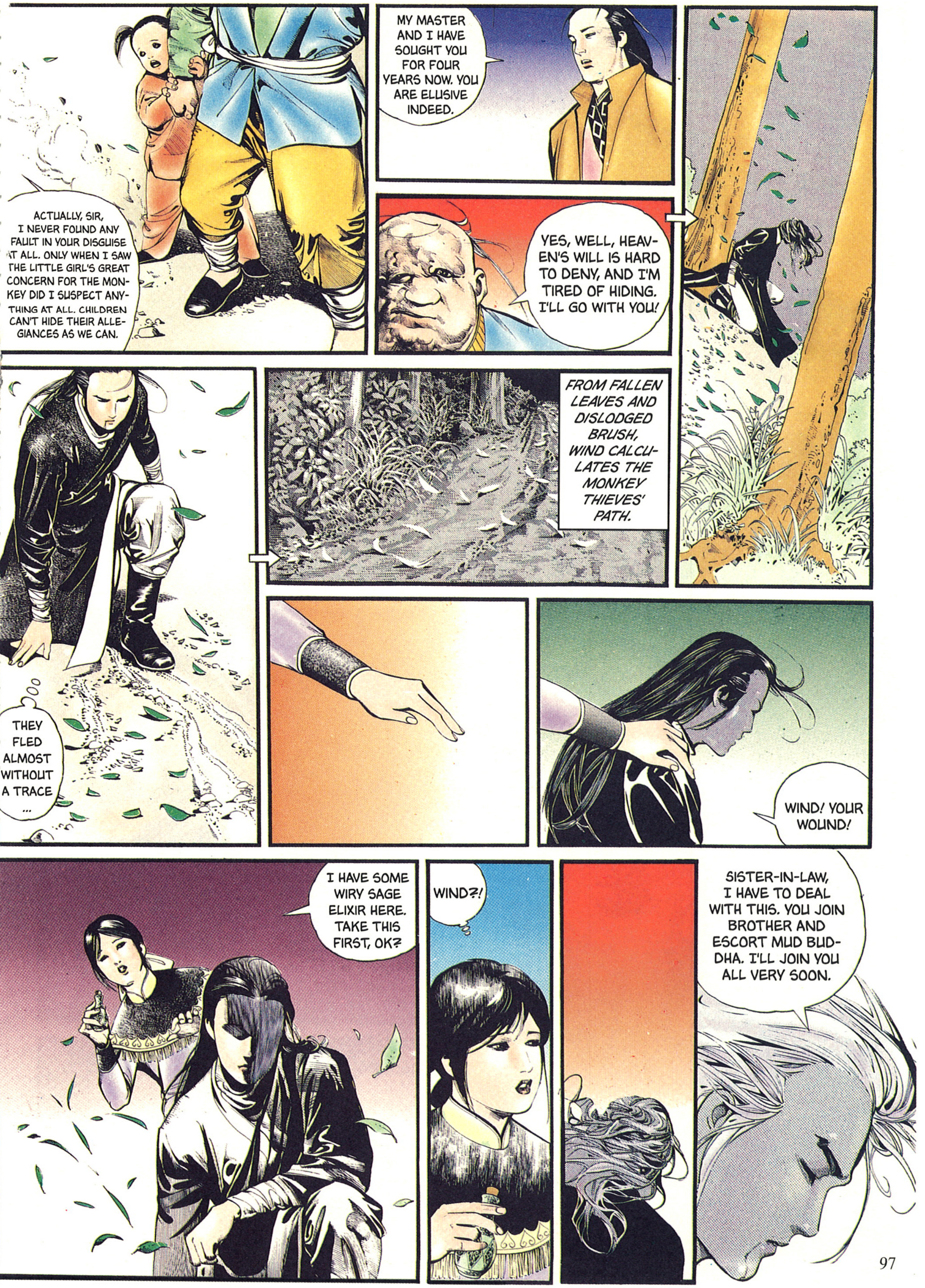


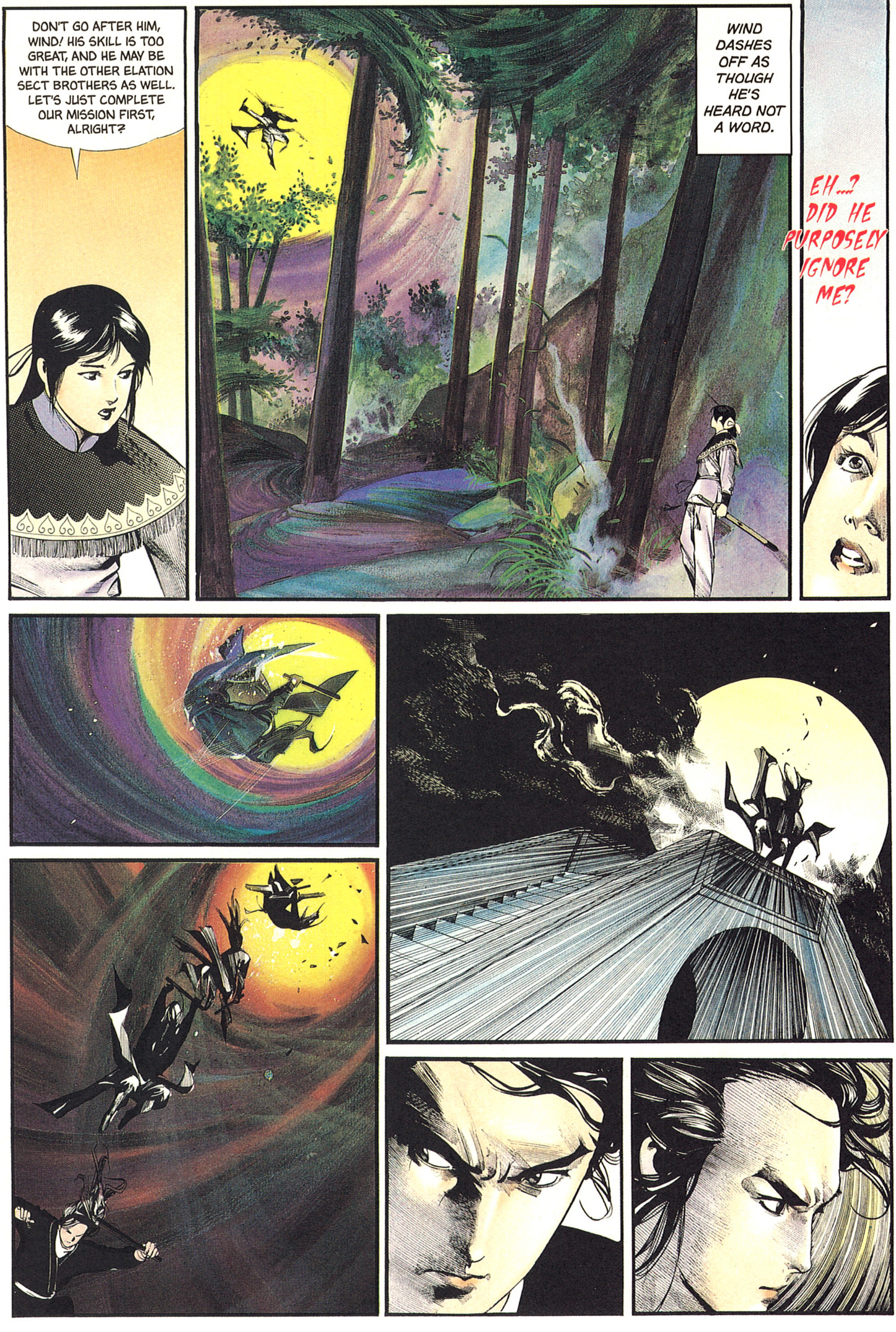

THE PHOENIX FROM THE HEAVENS IS ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS. ARROWS TRACE WIND'S EVERY STEP, AND FORCE HIM TO LEAP AWAY WILDLY WITH EACH COMING MISSILE. WIND IS FORCED FAR AWAY FROM DRAGON AND HIS ESCAPE ROUTE.

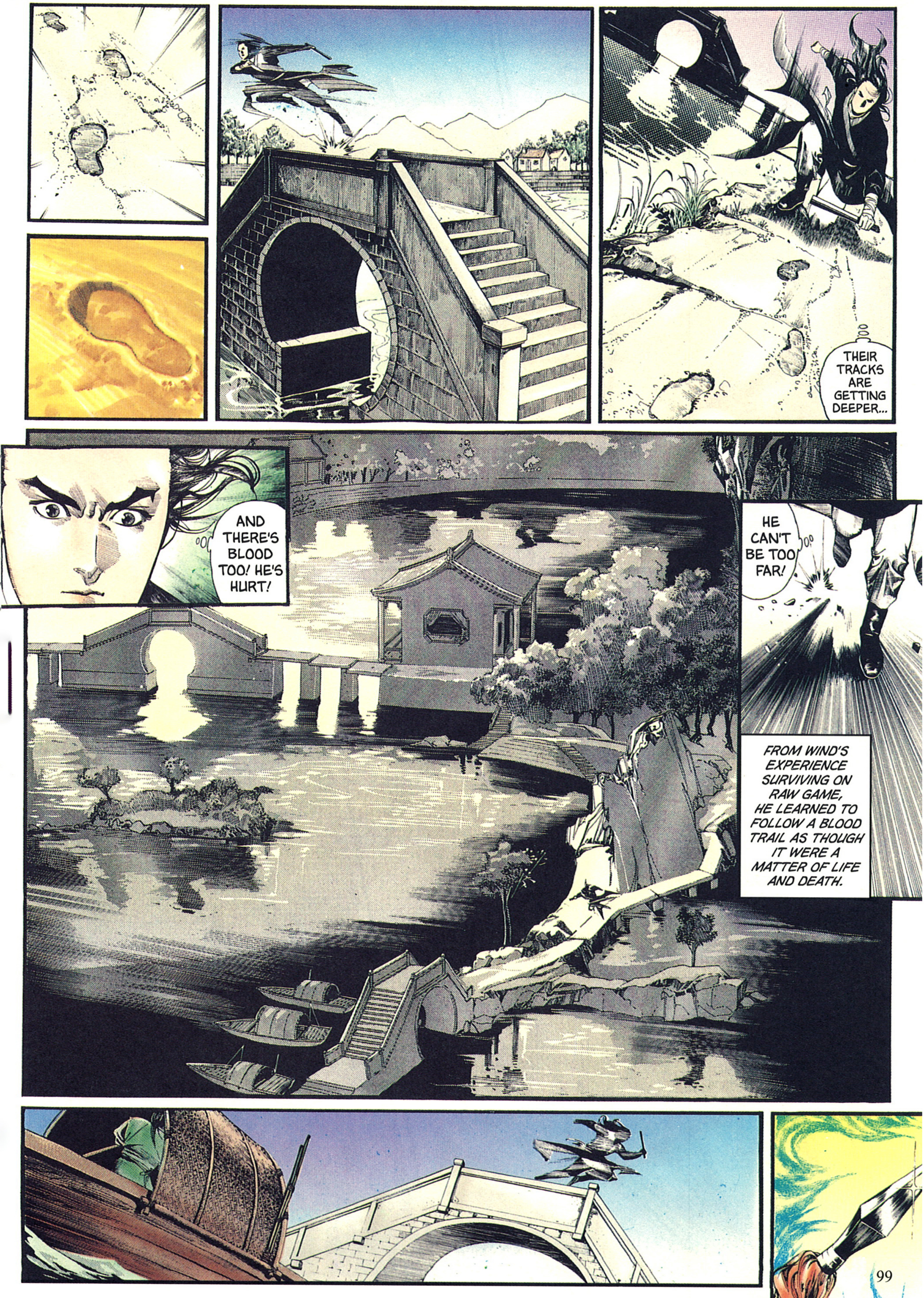

BROTHER, THE MONKEY IS S USELESS TO US NOW. LET THEM HAVE IT
WE CAN FIND MUD BUDDHA BY OURSELVES. I'M CERTAIN OF IT!
WIND, YOU'RE HURT. YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO FROST AND REST! LET IT GO!
WIND'S WILL IS UNRELENTING. HE WILL NOT REST.
AS KONG-CHI HAS KNOWN WIND FOR MANY YEARS, SHE KNOWS HE'LL NEVER BACK DOWN. STILL, SHE DESPERATELY TRIES TO DISSUADE HIM FROM PURSUING THE MONKEY'S CAPTORS.

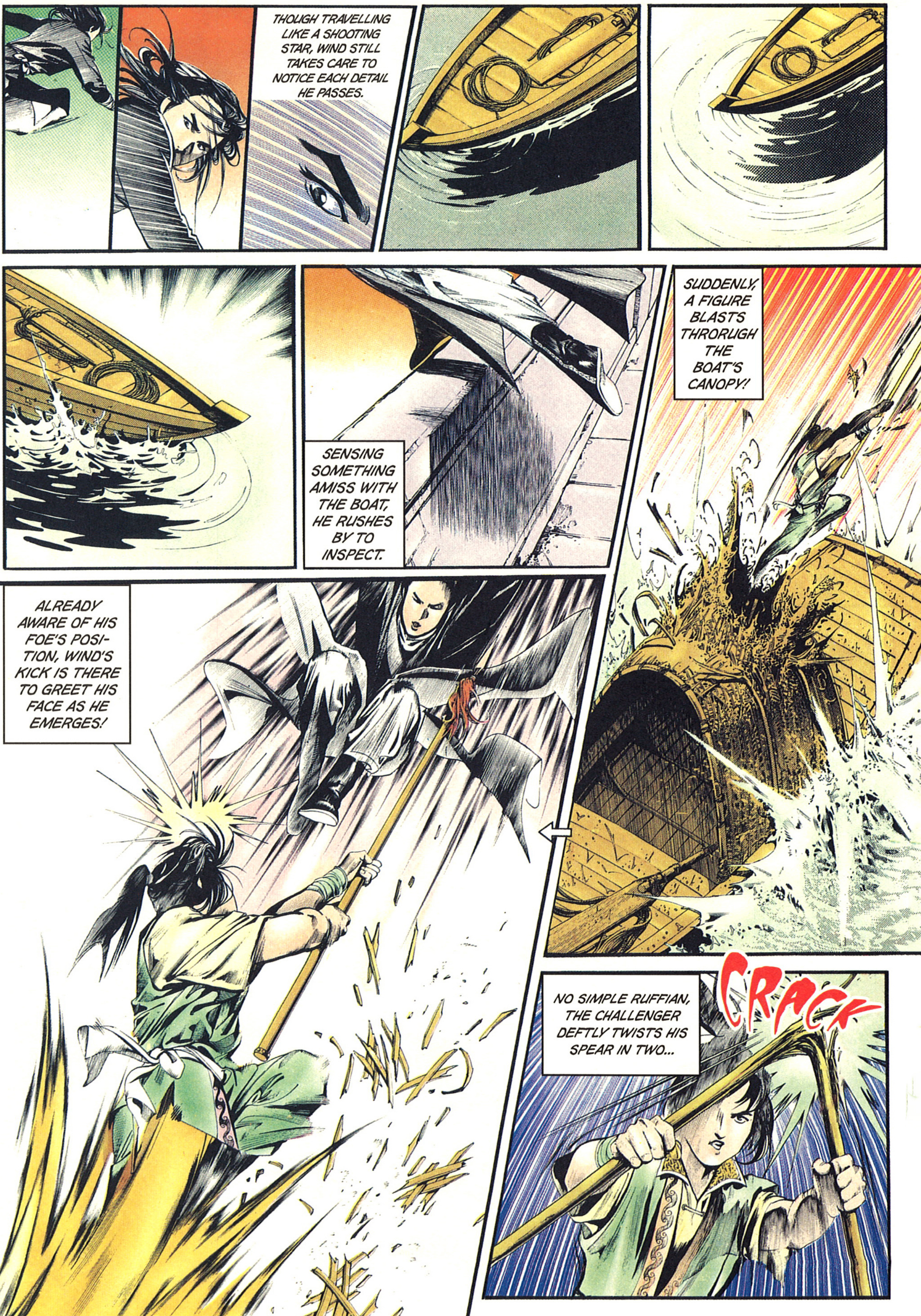

MIN-MIN, LET'S GET GOING!
SEE YOU, SIS!
OLD MAN, WAIT!


TEARING OFF A MASS OF FLESH AND HAIR, FROST REVEALS THE OLD MAN'S TRUE IDENTITY!
MY GOD, MUD BUDDHA WAS HERE WITH US ALL ALONG!
PLEASE FORGIVE US, SIR... BUT FATE COMMANDS THAT I ASK YOU TO ACCOMPANY US TO CONQUER'S COURT.
I HAD HEARD THAT FROST'S MIND IS KEEN... THAT HE SEES THROUGH OTHERS' SCHEMING, AND SURE ENOUGH...
MUD BUDDHA
YOU FLATTER ME, SIR.

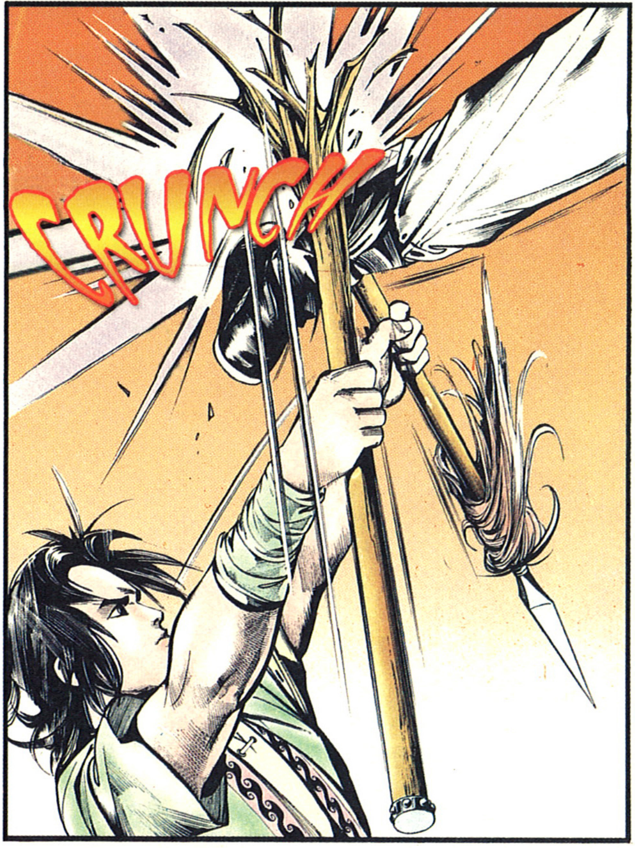

ACTUALLY, SIR, I NEVER FOUND ANY FAULT IN YOUR DISGUISE AT ALL. ONLY WHEN I SAW THE LITTLE GIRL'S GREAT CONCERN FOR THE MONKEY DID I SUSPECT ANYTHING AT ALL. CHILDREN CAN'T HIDE THEIR ALLEGIANCES AS WE CAN.
MY MASTER AND I HAVE SOUGHT YOU FOR FOUR YEARS NOW. YOU ARE ELUSIVE INDEED.
YES, WELL, HEAVEN'S WILL IS HARD TO DENY, AND I'M TIRED OF HIDING. I'LL GO WITH YOU!
THEY FLED ALMOST WITHOUT A TRACE ...
FROM FALLEN LEAVES AND DISLODGED BRUSH, WIND CALCULATES THE MONKEY THIEVES' PATH.
WIND! YOUR WOUND!
I HAVE SOME WIRY SAGE ELIXIR HERE. TAKE THIS FIRST, OK?
WIND?!
SISTER-IN-LAW, I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS. YOU JOIN BROTHER AND ESCORT MUD BUDDHA. I'LL JOIN YOU ALL VERY SOON.

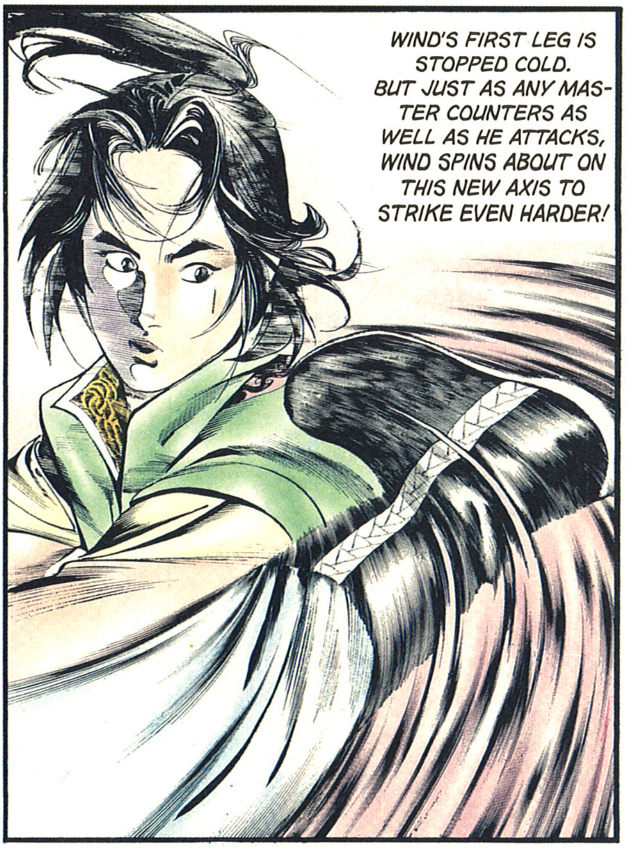

DON'T GO AFTER HIM, WIND! HIS SKILL IS TOO GREAT, AND HE MAY BE WITH THE OTHER ELATION SECT BROTHERS AS WELL. LET'S JUST COMPLETE OUR MISSION FIRST, ALRIGHT?
WIND DASHES OFF AS THOUGH HE'S HEARD NOT A WORD.
EH...? DID HE PURPOSELY IGNORE ME?

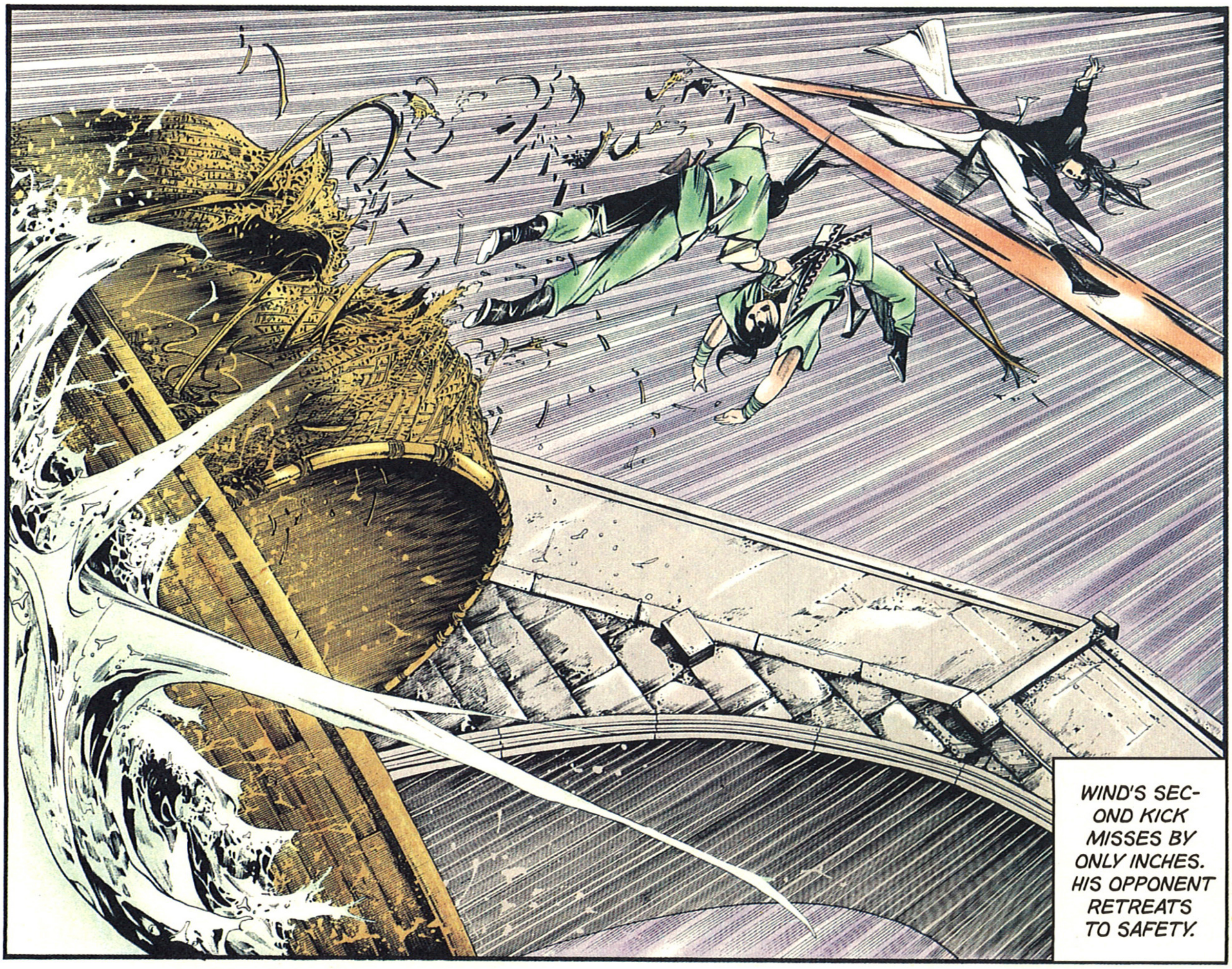

THEIR TRACKS ARE GETTING DEEPER...
AND THERE'S BLOOD TOO! HE'S HURT!
HE CAN'T BE TOO FAR!
FROM WIND'S EXPERIENCE SURVIVING ON RAW GAME, HE LEARNED TO FOLLOW A BLOOD TRAIL AS THOUGH IT WERE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.

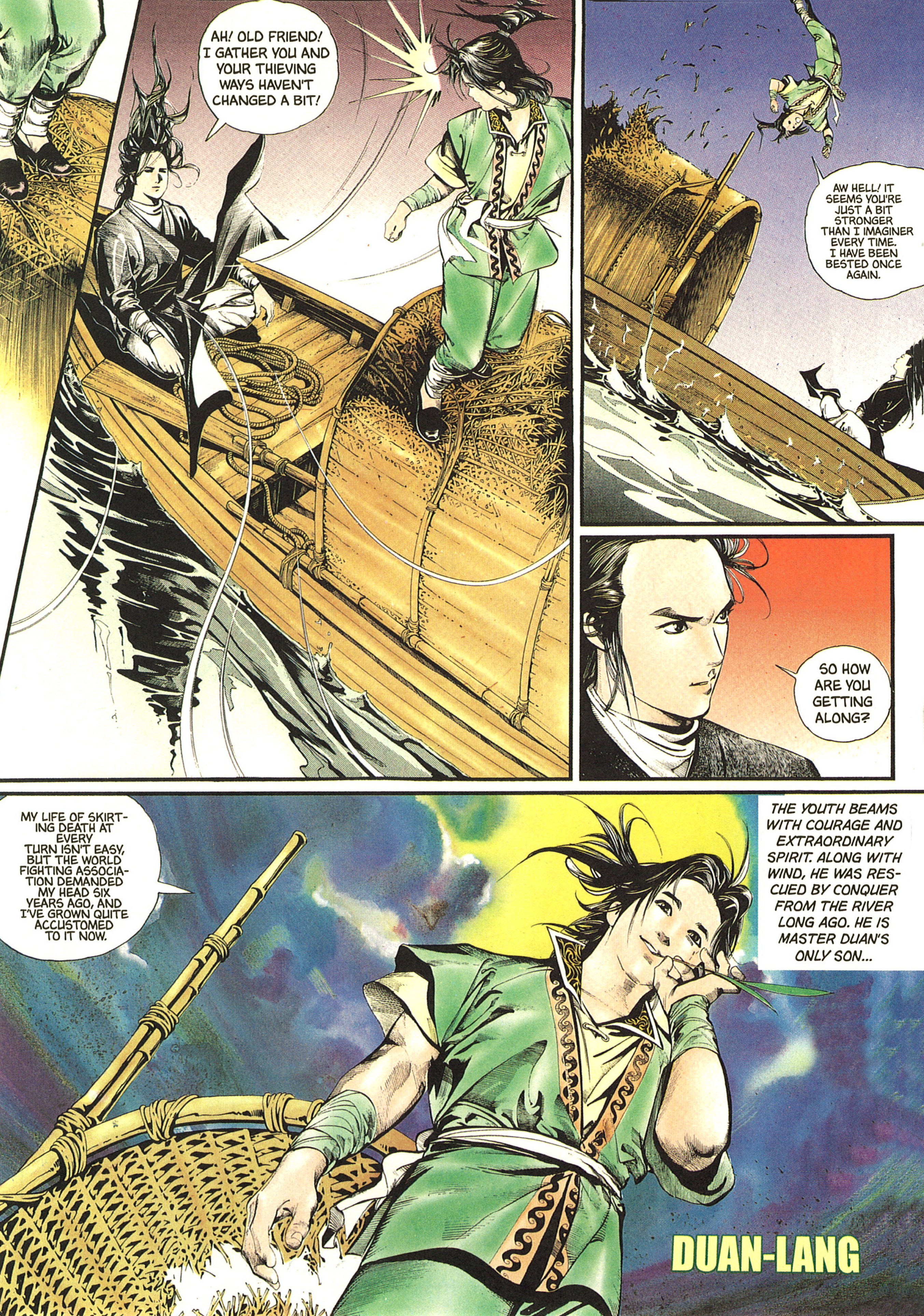

THOUGH TRAVELLING LIKE A SHOOTING STAR, WIND STILL TAKES CARE TO NOTICE EACH DETAIL HE PASSES.
SENSING SOMETHING AMISS WITH THE BOAT, HE RUSHES BY TO INSPECT.
SUDDENLY, A FIGURE BLASTS THRORUGH THE BOAT'S CANOPY!
ALREADY AWARE OF HIS FOE'S POSITION, WIND'S KICK IS THERE TO GREET HIS FACE AS HE EMERGES!
NO SIMPLE RUFFIAN, THE CHALLENGER DEFTLY TWISTS HIS SPEAR IN TWO...
CRACK

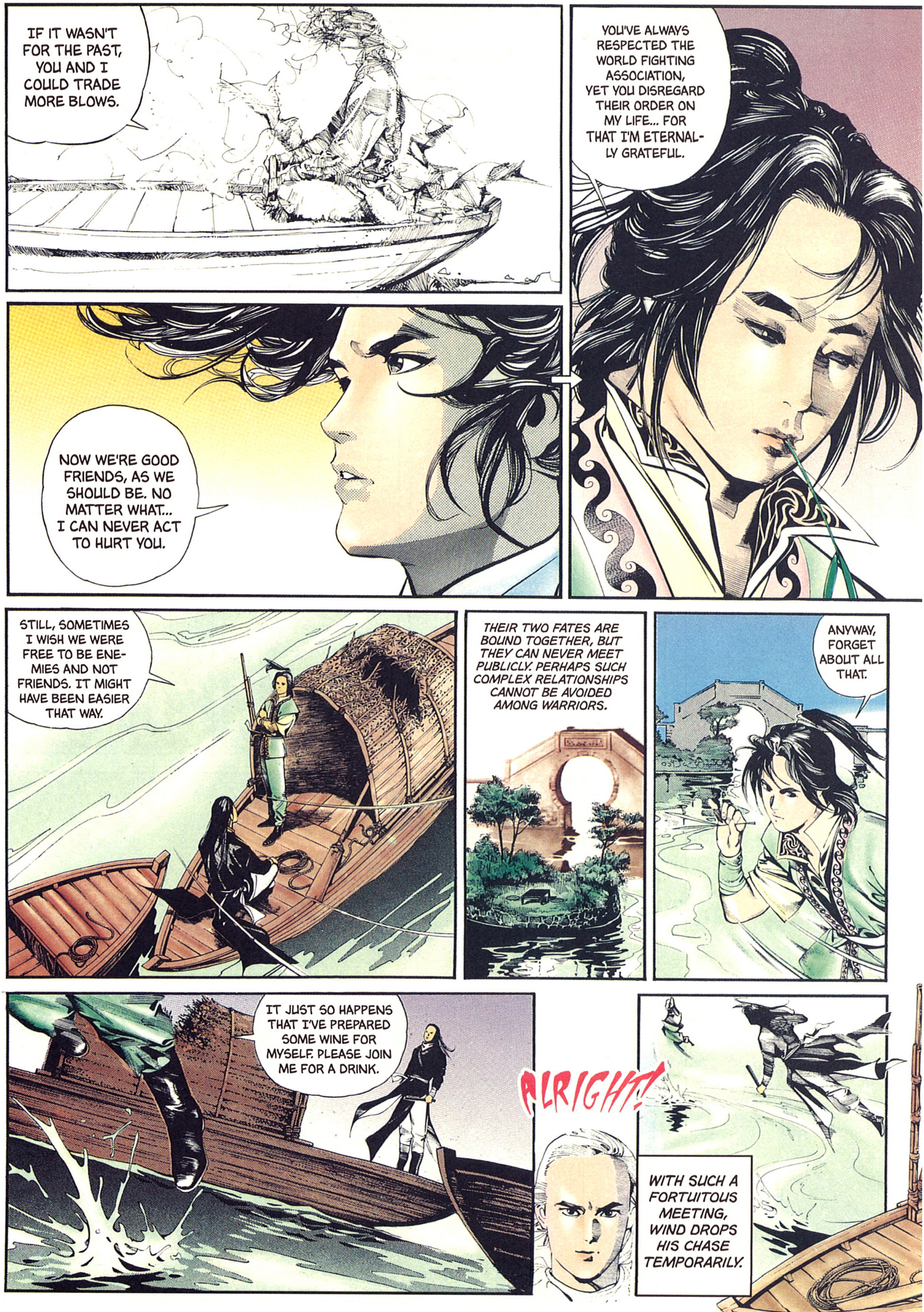
CLAMPING DOWN SOLID, HE HALTS THE ONCOMING KICK!

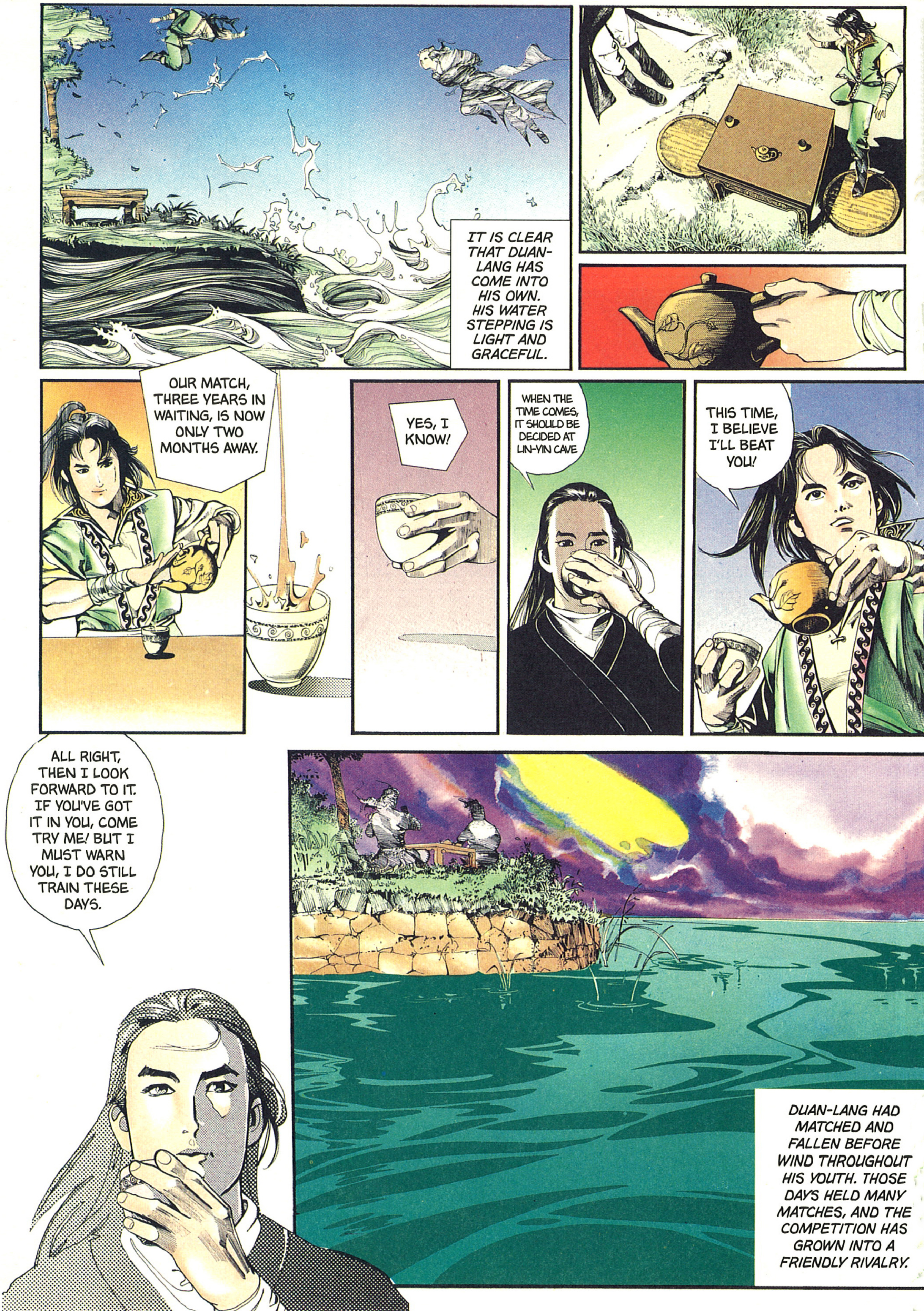


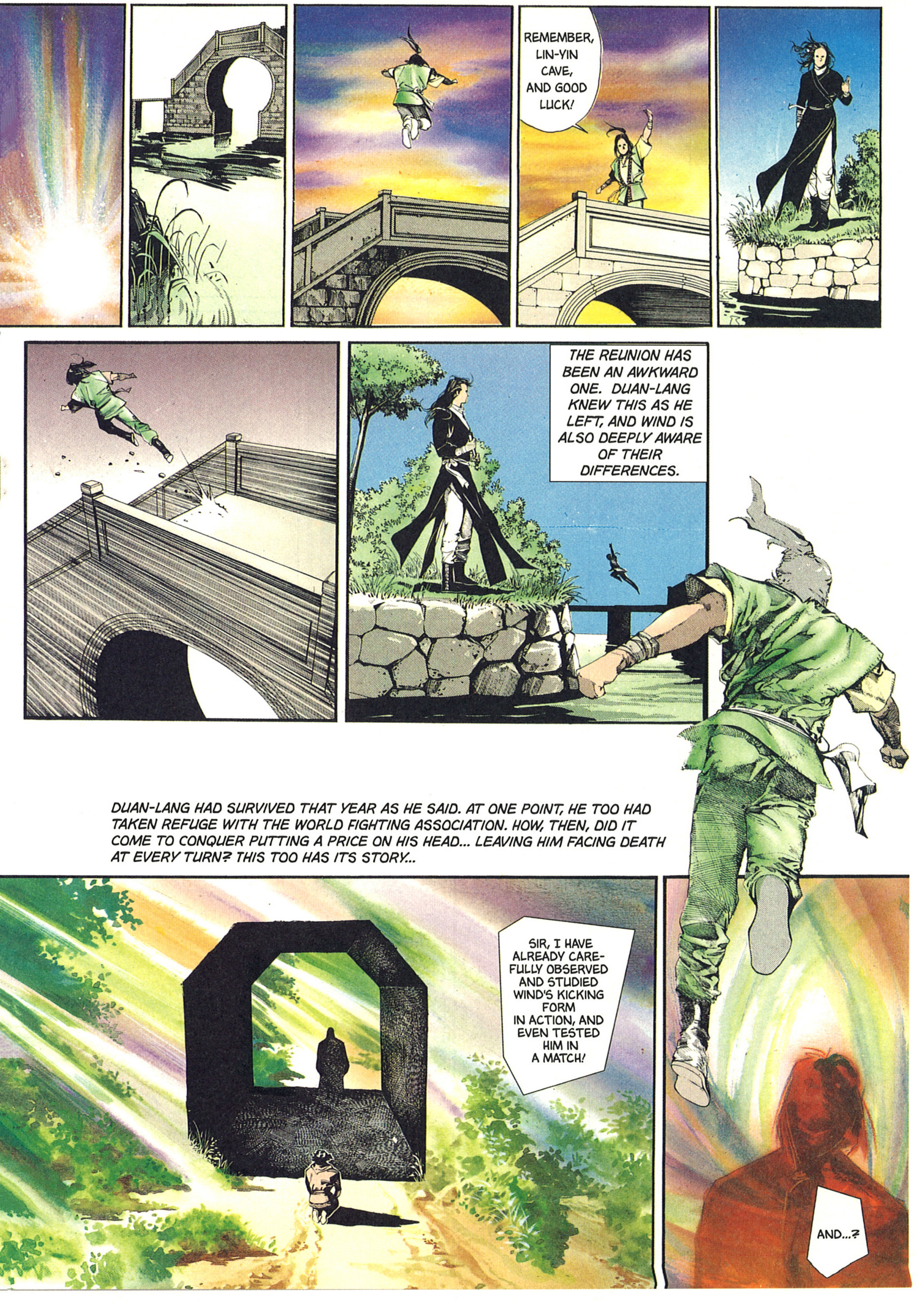

WIND'S FIRST LEG IS STOPPED COLD. BUT JUST AS ANY MASTER COUNTERS AS WELL AS HE ATTACKS, WIND SPINS ABOUT ON THIS NEW AXIS TO STRIKE EVEN HARDER!

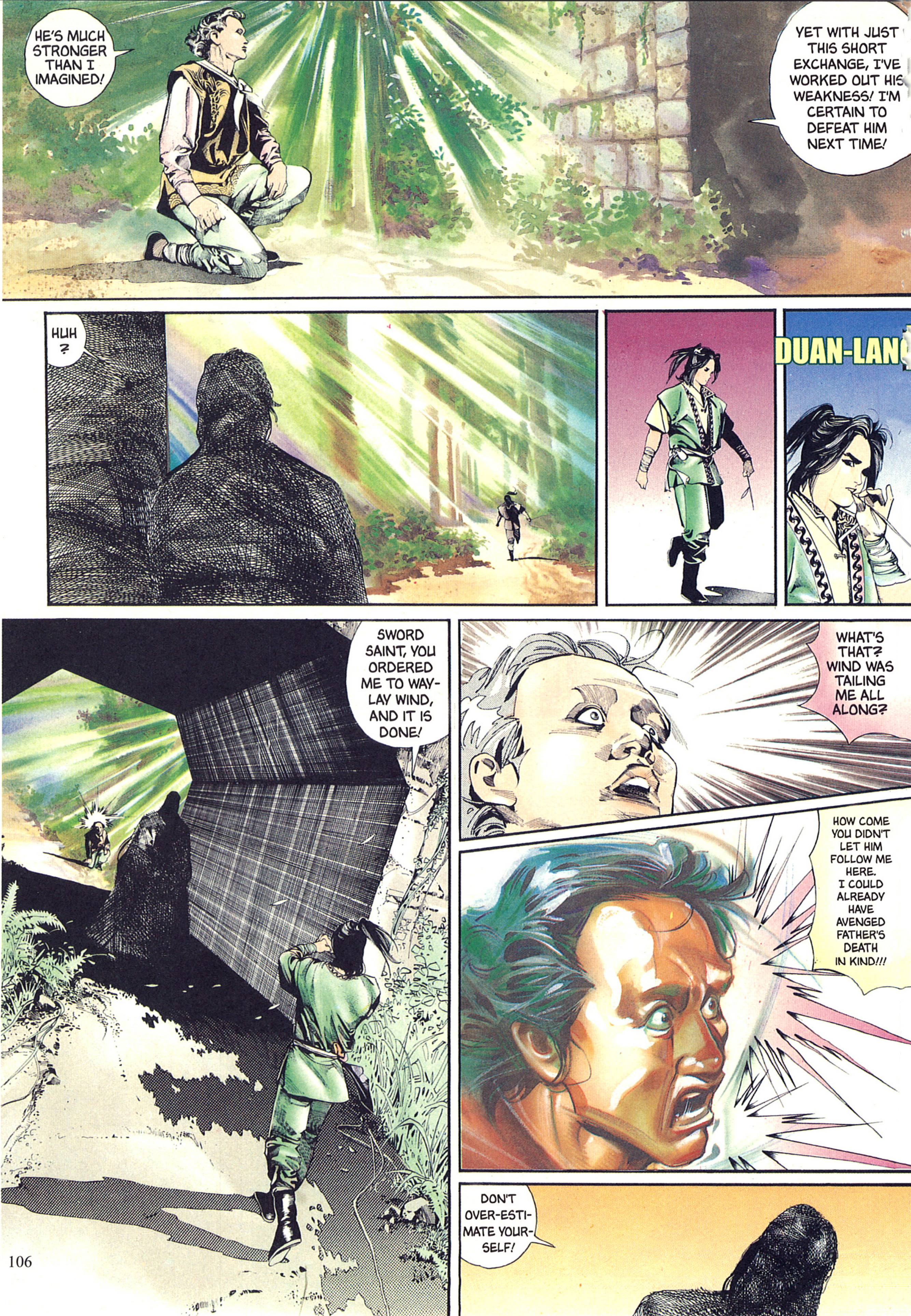

WIND'S SECOND KICK MISSES BY ONLY INCHES. HIS OPPONENT RETREATS TO SAFETY.

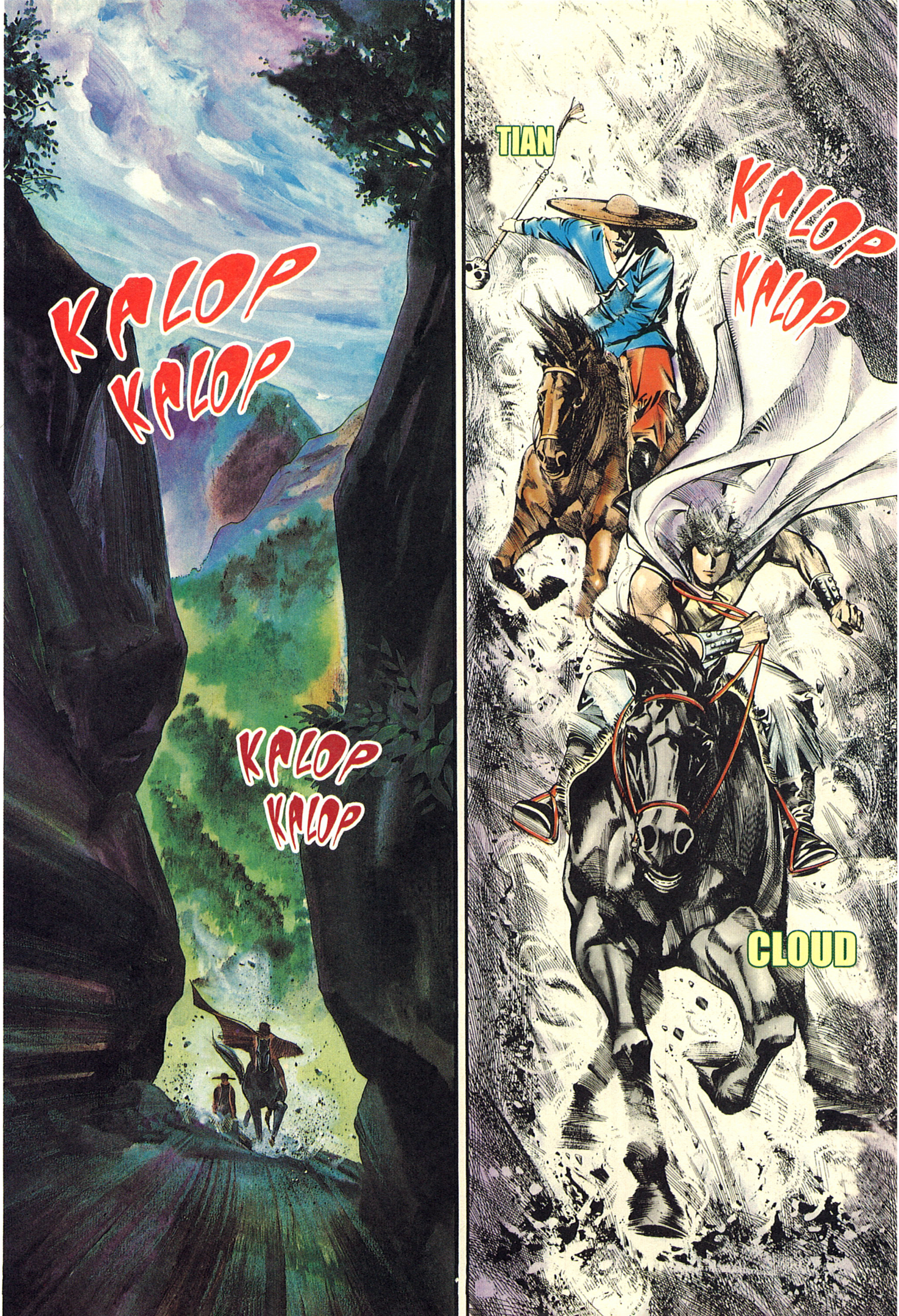

AH! OLD FRIEND! I GATHER YOU AND YOUR THIEVING WAYS HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
AW HELL! IT SEEMS YOU'RE JUST A BIT STRONGER THAN I IMAGINER EVERY TIME. I HAVE BEEN BESTED ONCE AGAIN.
SO HOW ARE YOU GETTING ALONG?
MY LIFE OF SKIRTING DEATH AT EVERY TURN ISN'T EASY, BUT THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION DEMANDED MY HEAD SIX YEARS AGO, AND I'VE GROWN QUITE ACCUSTOMED TO IT NOW.
THE YOUTH BEAMS WITH COURAGE AND EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT. ALONG WITH WIND, HE WAS RESCUED BY CONQUER FROM THE RIVER LONG AGO. HE IS MASTER DUAN'S ONLY SON...
DUAN-LANG

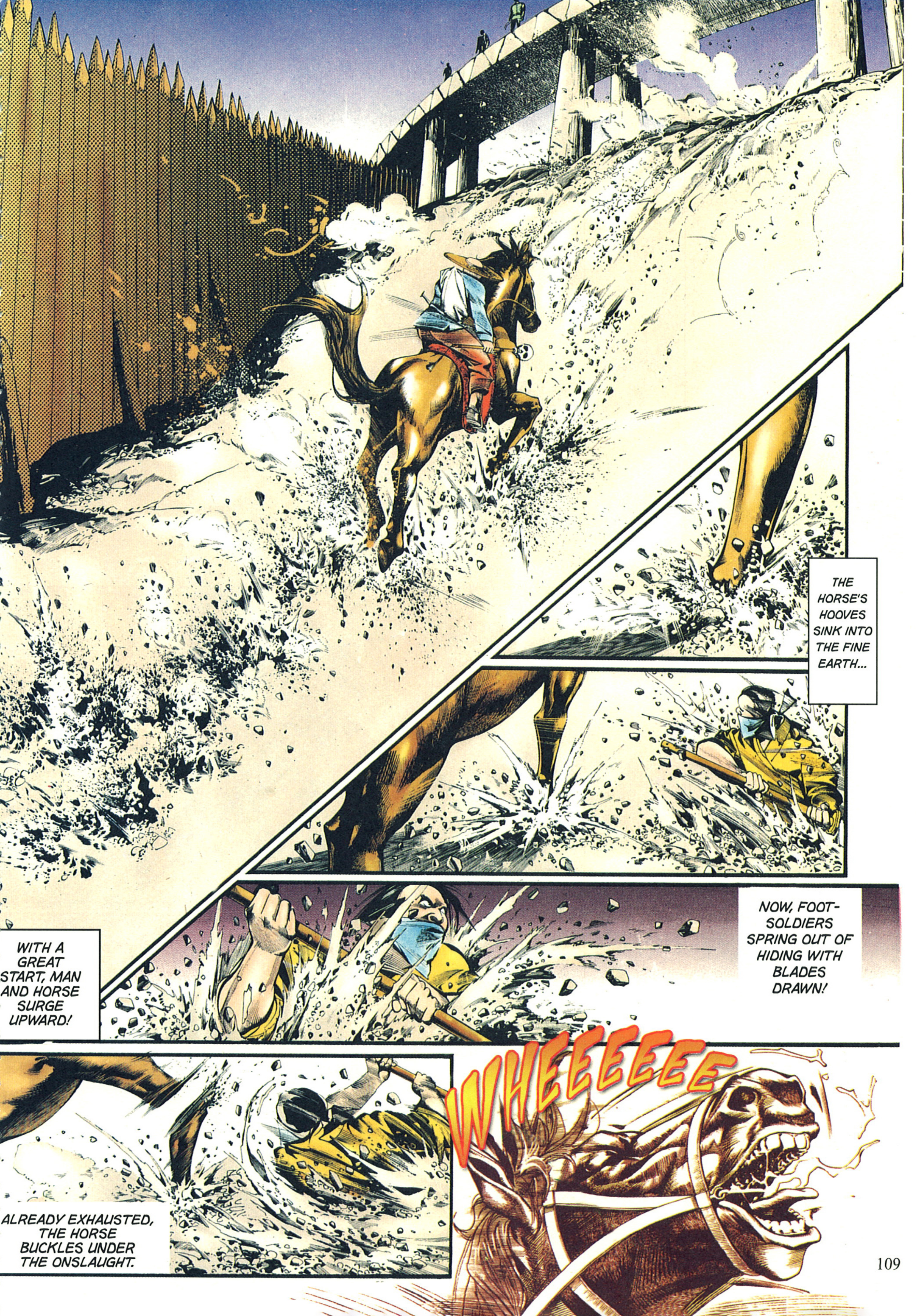

IF IT WASN'T FOR THE PAST, YOU AND I COULD TRADE MORE BLOWS.
YOU'VE ALWAYS RESPECTED THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION, YET YOU DISREGARD THEIR ORDER ON MY LIFE... FOR THAT I'M ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.
NOW WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS, AS WE SHOULD BE. NO MATTER WHAT... I CAN NEVER ACT TO HURT YOU.
STILL, SOMETIMES I WISH WE WERE FREE TO BE ENEMIES AND NOT FRIENDS. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN EASIER THAT WAY.
THEIR TWO FATES ARE BOUND TOGETHER, BUT THEY CAN NEVER MEET PUBLICLY. PERHAPS SUCH COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS CANNOT BE AVOIDED AMONG WARRIORS.
ANYWAY, FORGET ABOUT ALL THAT.
IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I'VE PREPARED SOME WINE FOR MYSELF. PLEASE JOIN ME FOR A DRINK.
ALRIGHT!
WITH SUCH A FORTUITOUS MEETING, WIND DROPS HIS CHASE TEMPORARILY.

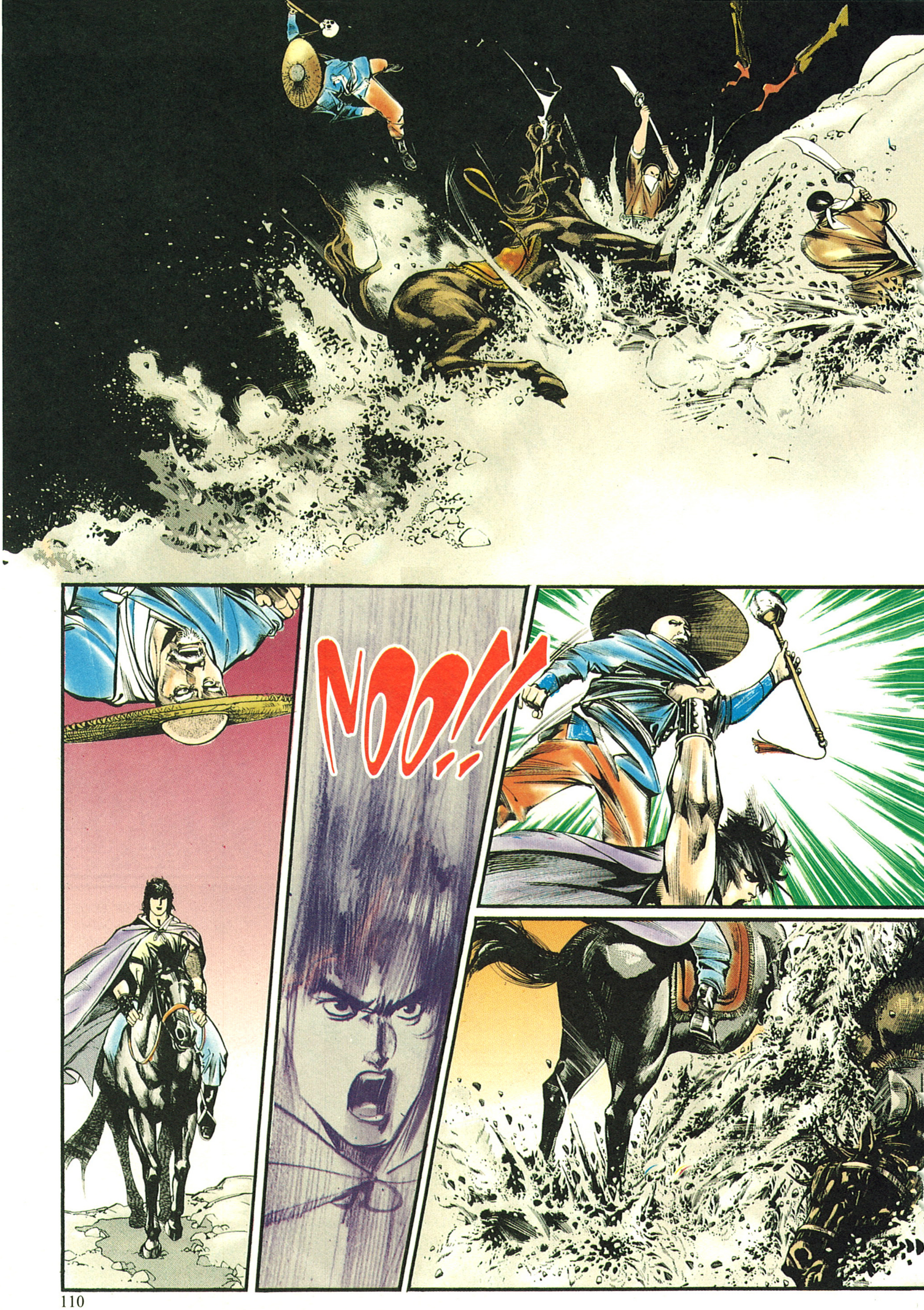

IT IS CLEAR THAT DUAN-LANG HAS COME INTO HIS OWN. HIS WATER STEPPING IS LIGHT AND GRACEFUL.
OUR MATCH, THREE YEARS IN WAITING, IS NOW ONLY TWO MONTHS AWAY.
YES, I KNOW!
WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT SHOULD BE DECIDED AT LIN-YIN CAVE
THIS TIME, I BELIEVE I'LL BEAT YOU!
ALL RIGHT, THEN I LOOK FORWARD TO IT. IF YOU'VE GOT IT IN YOU, COME TRY ME! BUT I MUST WARN YOU, I DO STILL TRAIN THESE DAYS.
DUAN-LANG HAD MATCHED AND FALLEN BEFORE WIND THROUGHOUT HIS YOUTH. THOSE DAYS HELD MANY MATCHES, AND THE COMPETITION HAS GROWN INTO A FRIENDLY RIVALRY.


REMEMBER, LIN-YIN CAVE, AND GOOD LUCK!
THE REUNION HAS BEEN AN AWKWARD ONE. DUAN-LANG KNEW THIS AS HE LEFT, AND WIND IS ALSO DEEPLY AWARE OF THEIR DIFFERENCES.
DUAN-LANG HAD SURVIVED THAT YEAR AS HE SAID. AT ONE POINT, HE TOO HAD TAKEN REFUGE WITH THE WORLD FIGHTING ASSOCIATION. HOW, THEN, DID IT COME TO CONQUER PUTTING A PRICE ON HIS HEAD... LEAVING HIM FACING DEATH AT EVERY TURN? THIS TOO HAS ITS STORY...
SIR, I HAVE ALREADY CAREFULLY OBSERVED AND STUDIED WIND'S KICKING FORM IN ACTION, AND EVEN TESTED HIM IN A MATCH!
AND...?

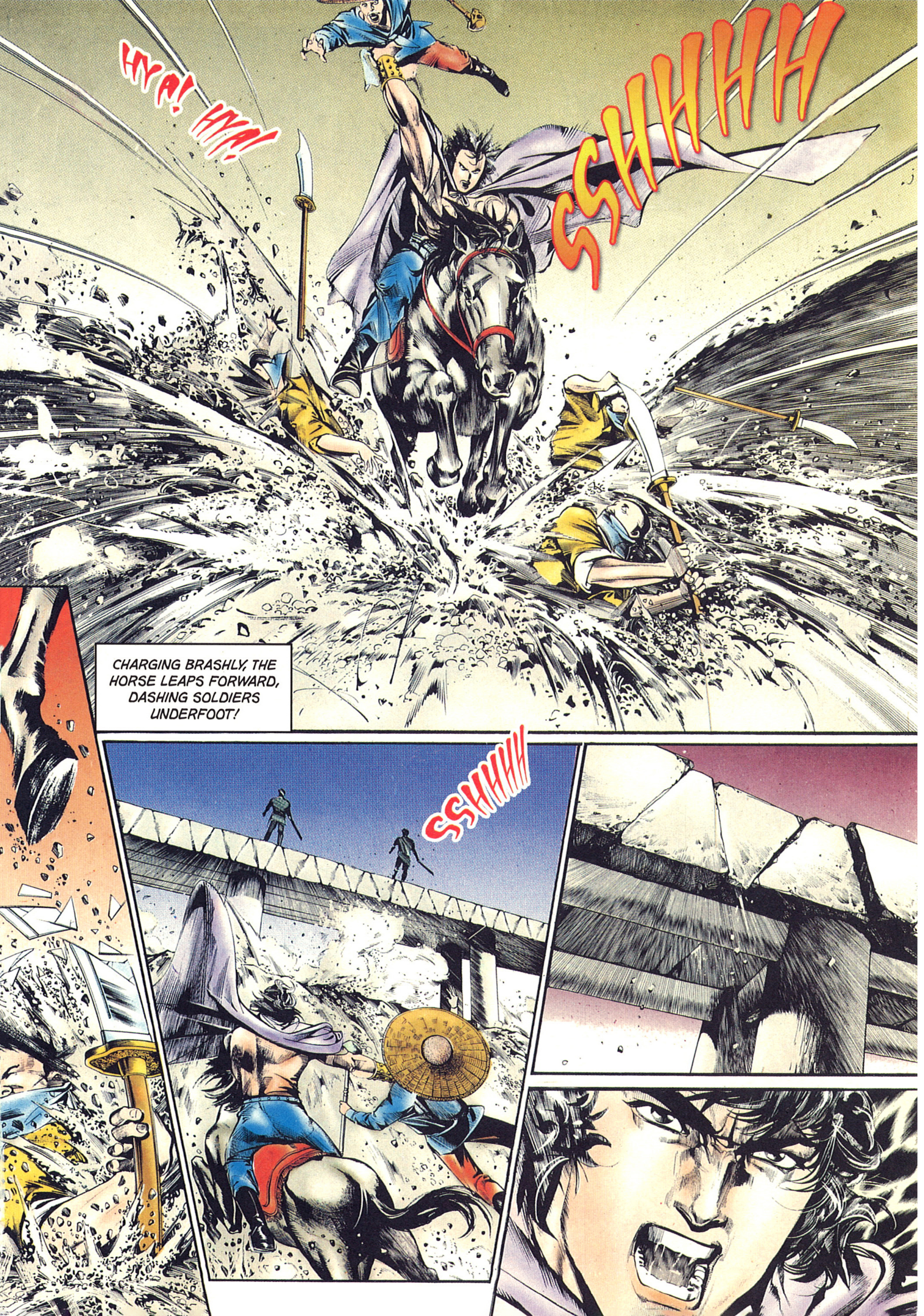

HE'S MUCH STRONGER THAN I IMAGINED!
YET WITH JUST THIS SHORT EXCHANGE, I'VE WORKED OUT HIS WEAKNESS! I'M CERTAIN TO DEFEAT HIM NEXT TIME!
HUH ?
DUAN-LANG
SWORD SAINT, YOU ORDERED ME TO WAYLAY WIND, AND IT IS DONE!
WHAT'S THAT? WIND WAS TAILING ME ALL ALONG?
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T LET HIM FOLLOW ME HERE. I COULD ALREADY HAVE AVENGED FATHER'S DEATH IN KIND!!!
DON'T OVER-ESTIMATE YOURSELF!

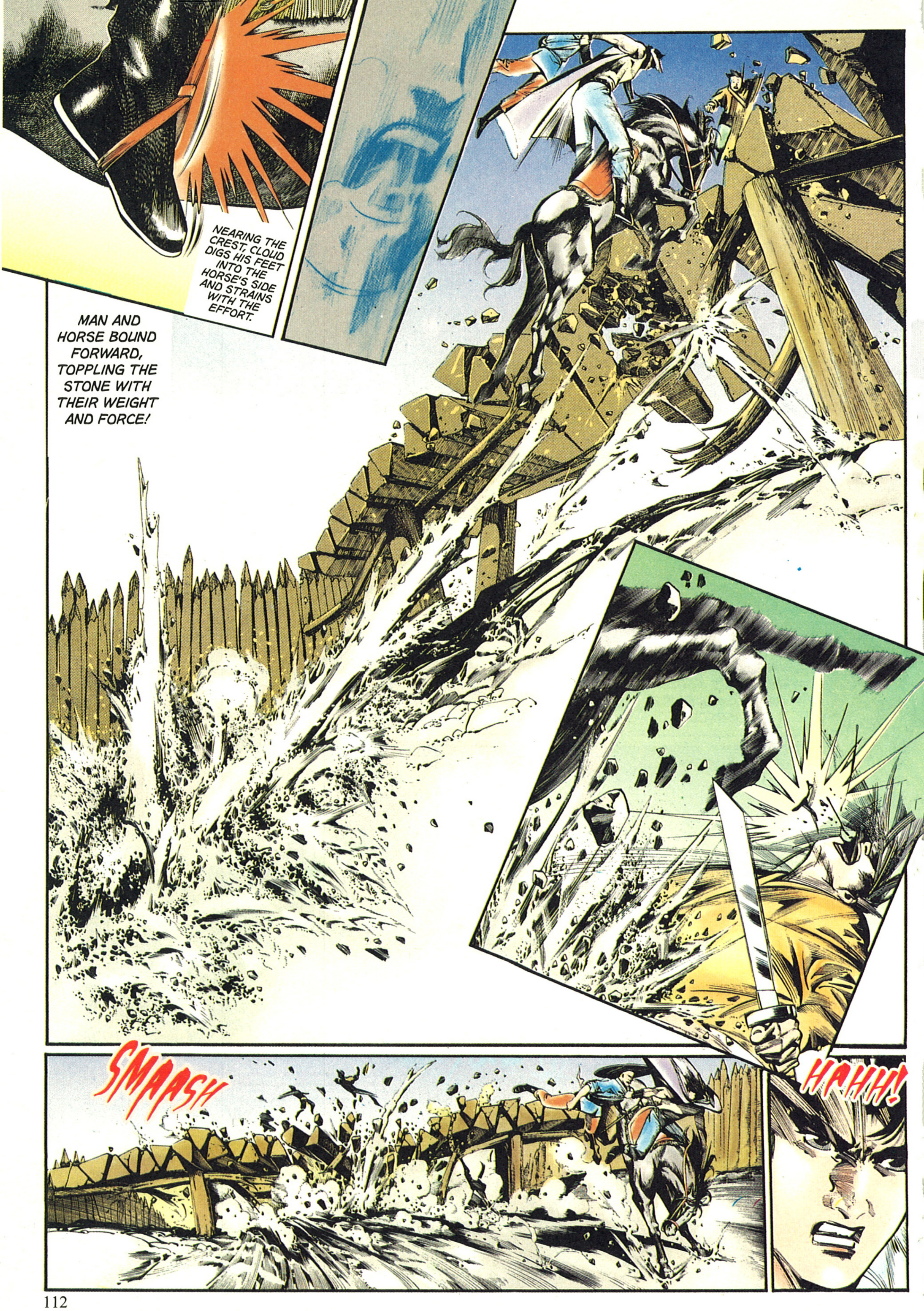

KALOP
KALOP
KALOP
KALOP
TIAN
KALOP
KALOP
CLOUD

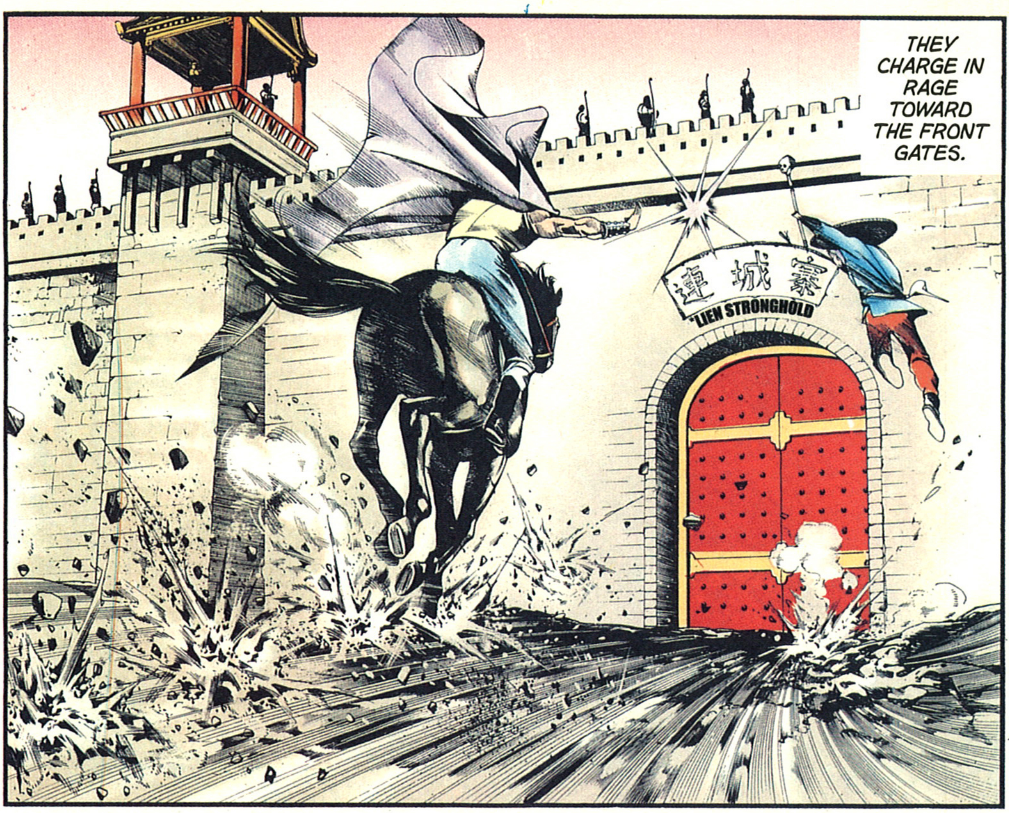

WITH A GREAT START, MAN AND HORSE SURGE UPWARD!
THE HORSE'S HOOVES SINK INTO THE FINE EARTH...
NOW, FOOT-SOLDIERS SPRING OUT OF HIDING WITH BLADES DRAWN!
ALREADY EXHAUSTED, THE HORSE BUCKLES UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT.
WHEEEEEEE

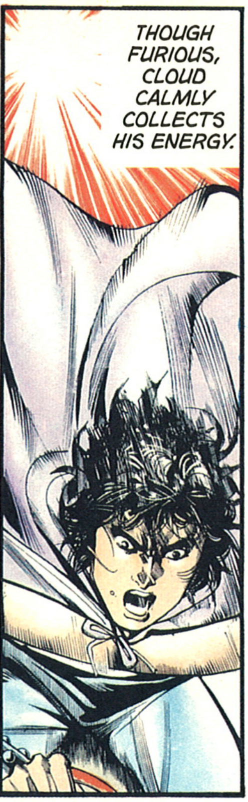


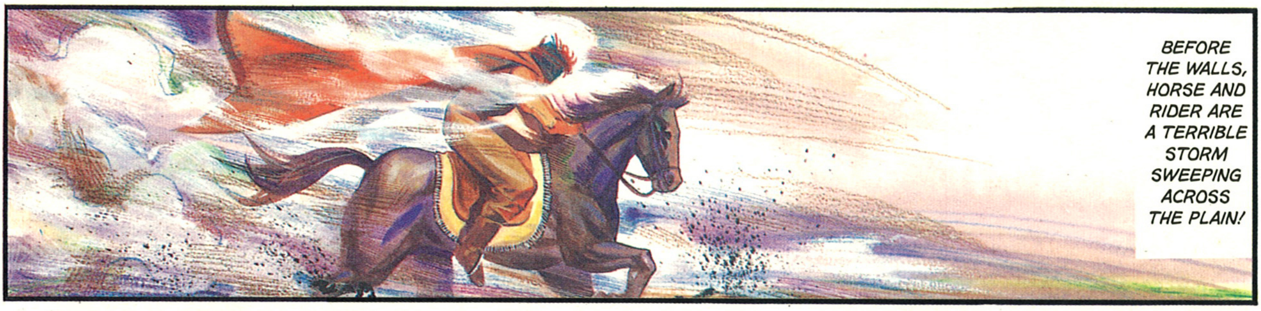
NOO!!

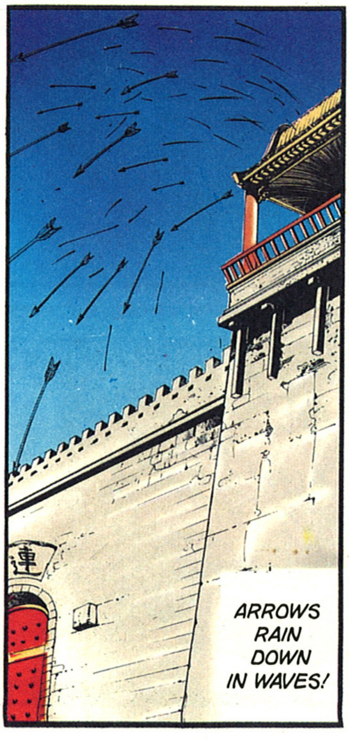

HYA! HYA!
SSHHHH
CHARGING BRASHLY, THE HORSE LEAPS FORWARD, DASHING SOLDIERS UNDERFOOT!
SSHHHH

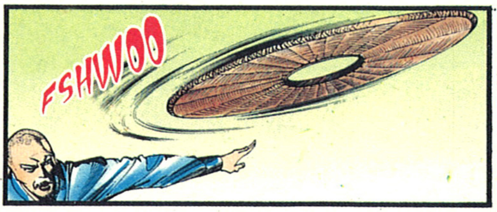

NEARING THE CREST, CLOUD DIGS HIS FEET INTO THE HORSE'S SIDE AND STRAINS WITH THE EFFORT.
MAN AND HORSE BOUND FORWARD, TOPPLING THE STONE WITH THEIR WEIGHT AND FORCE!
SMASH
HAHH!

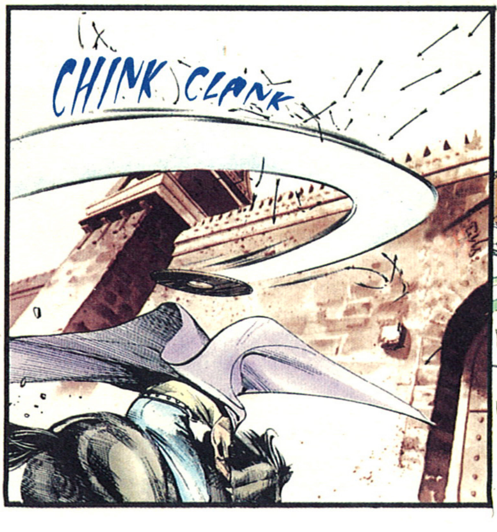

THEY CHARGE IN RAGE TOWARD THE FRONT GATES.
連城寨
LIEN STRONGHOLD

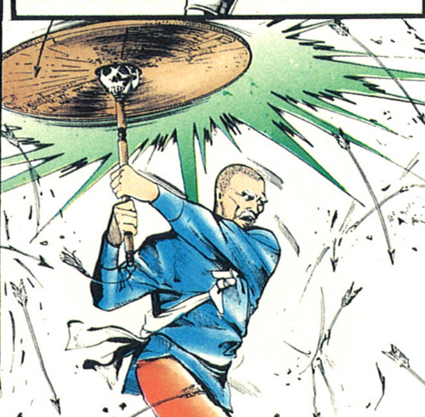

THOUGH FURIOUS, CLOUD CALMLY COLLECTS HIS ENERGY.

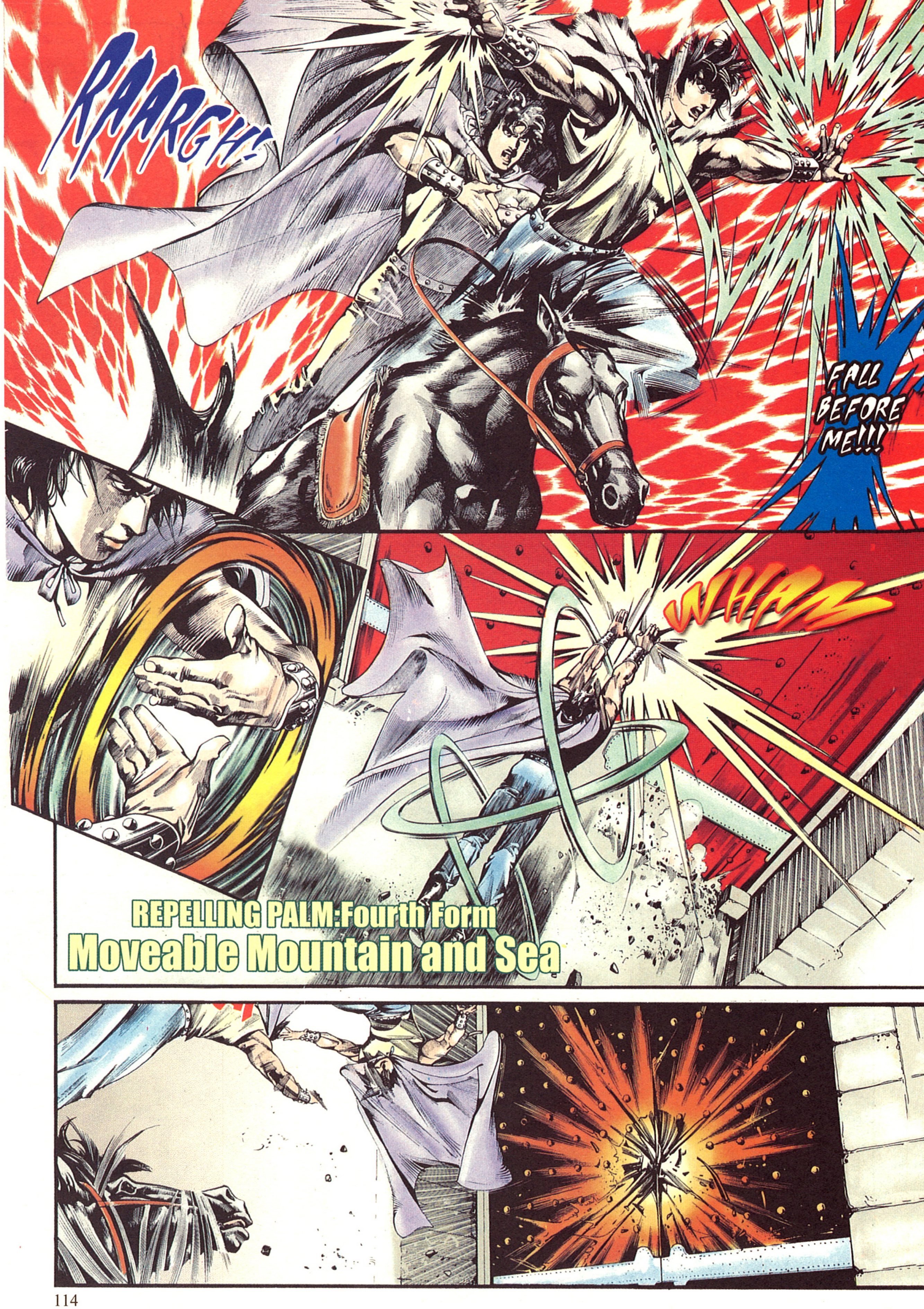

BEFORE THE WALLS, HORSE AND RIDER ARE A TERRIBLE STORM SWEEPING ACROSS THE PLAIN!

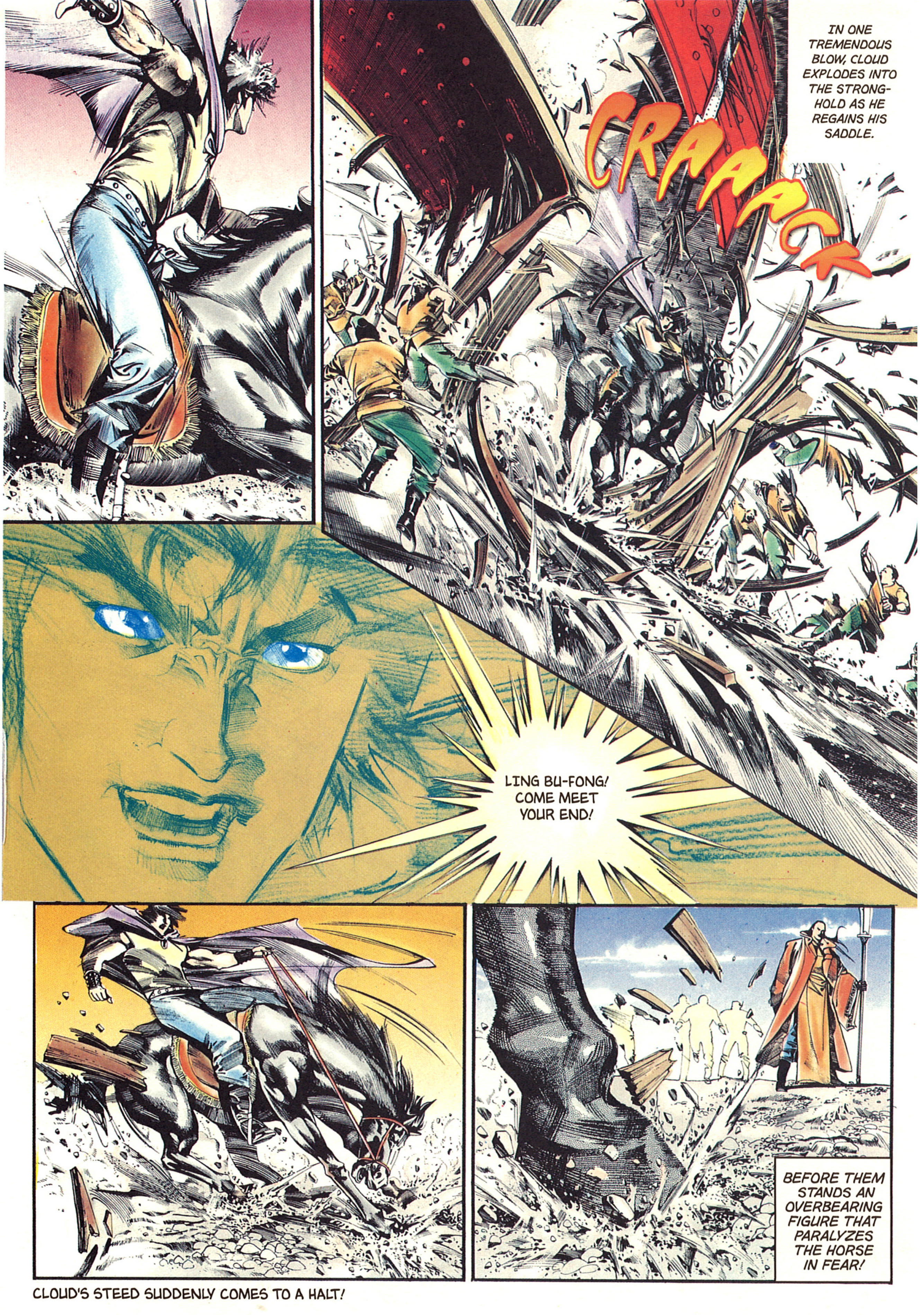

連
ARROWS RAIN DOWN IN WAVES!


FSHWOO

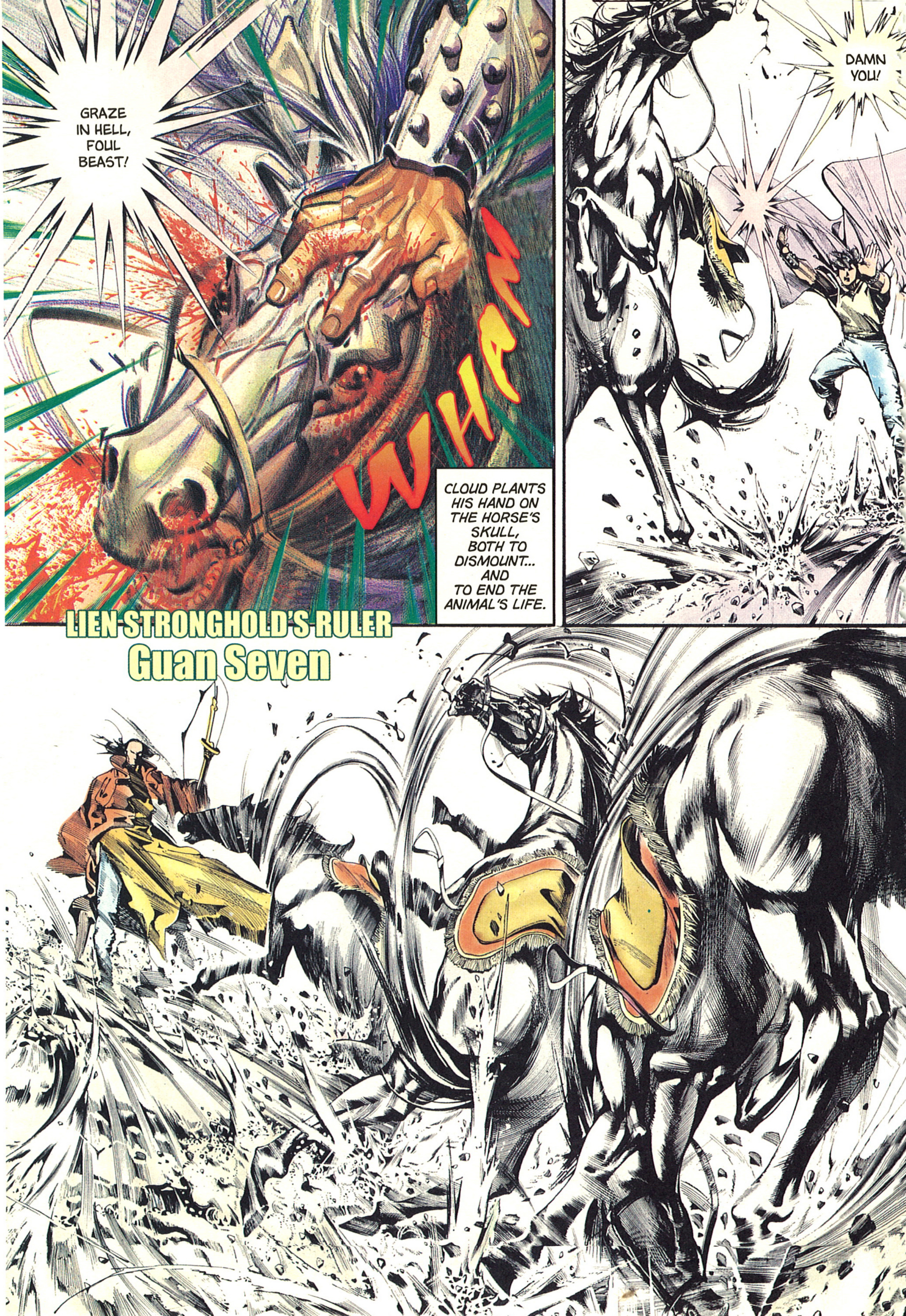

CHINK CLANK

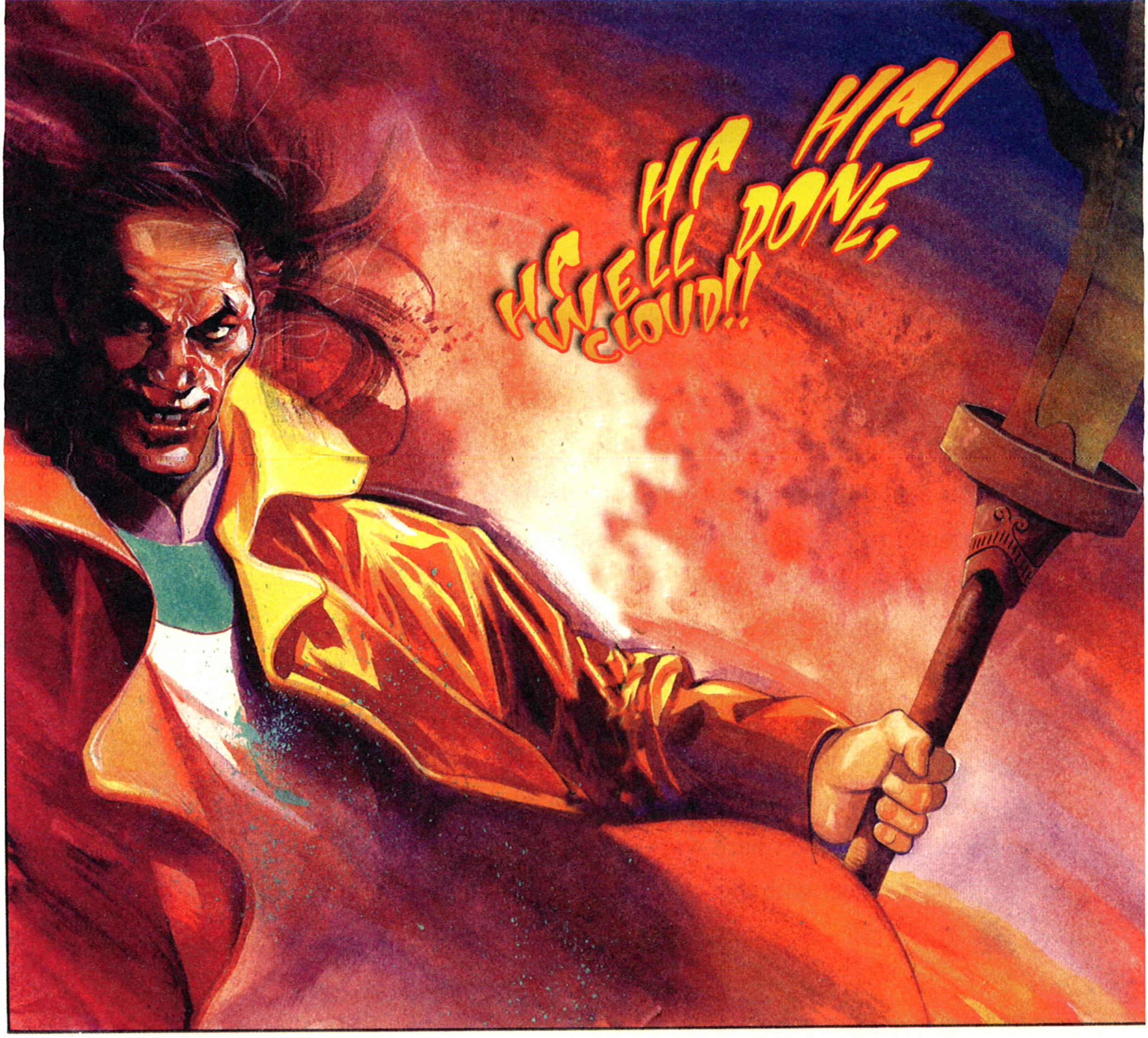


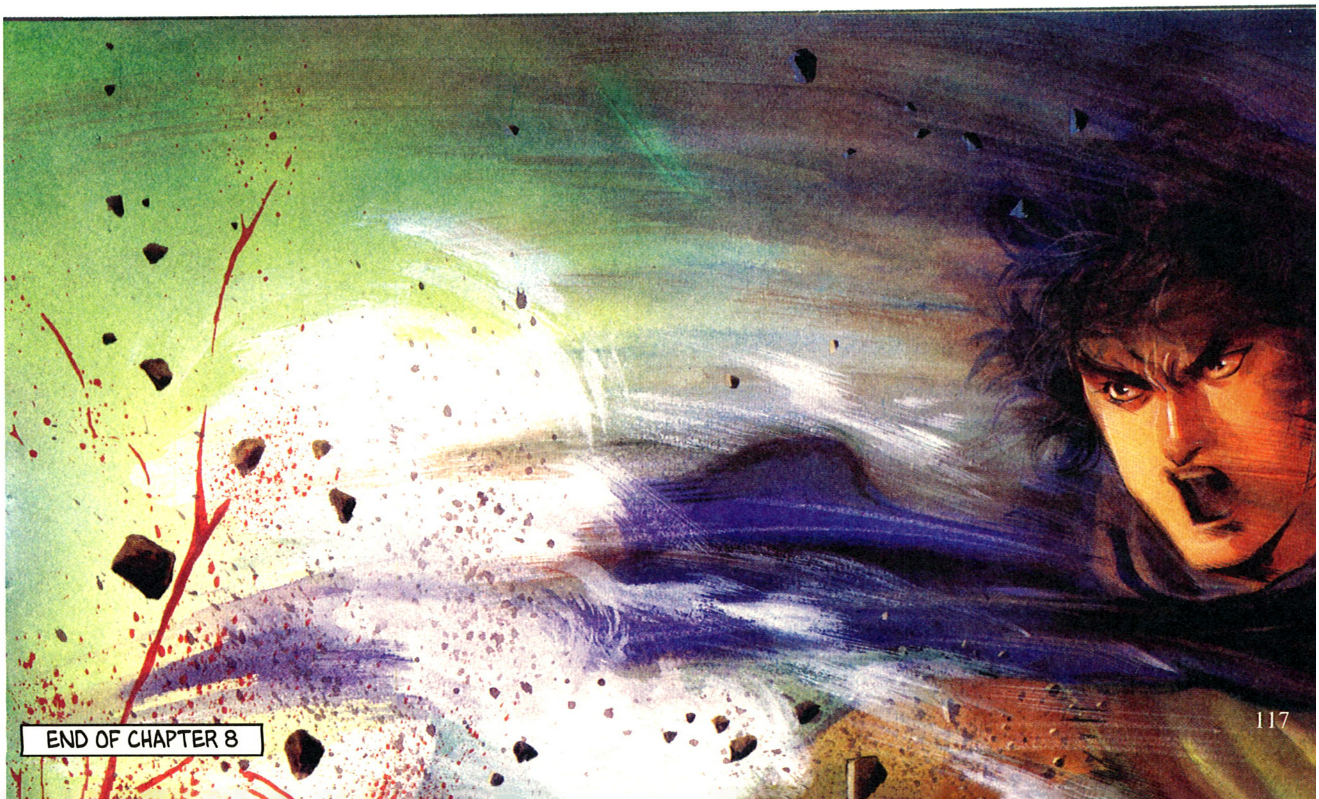

RAARGH!
FALL BEFORE ME!!!
WHAM
REPELLING PALM:Fourth Form
Moveable Mountain and Sea


IN ONE TREMENDOUS BLOW, CLOUD EXPLODES INTO THE STRONGHOLD AS HE REGAINS HIS SADDLE.
CRAAACK
LING BU-FONG! COME MEET YOUR END!
BEFORE THEM STANDS AN OVERBEARING FIGURE THAT PARALYZES THE HORSE IN FEAR!

CLOUD'S STEED SUDDENLY COMES TO A HALT!


GRAZE IN HELL, FOUL BEAST!
WHAM
CLOUD PLANTS HIS HAND ON THE HORSE'S SKULL, BOTH TO DISMOUNT... AND TO END THE ANIMAL'S LIFE.
DAMN YOU!
LIEN-STRONGHOLD'S RULER
Guan Seven


HA HA HA!
WELL DONE, CLOUD!!

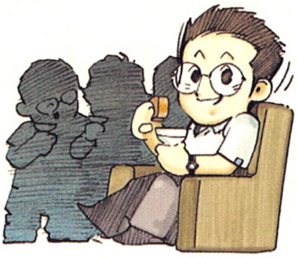


END OF CHAPTER 8

Author's Notes

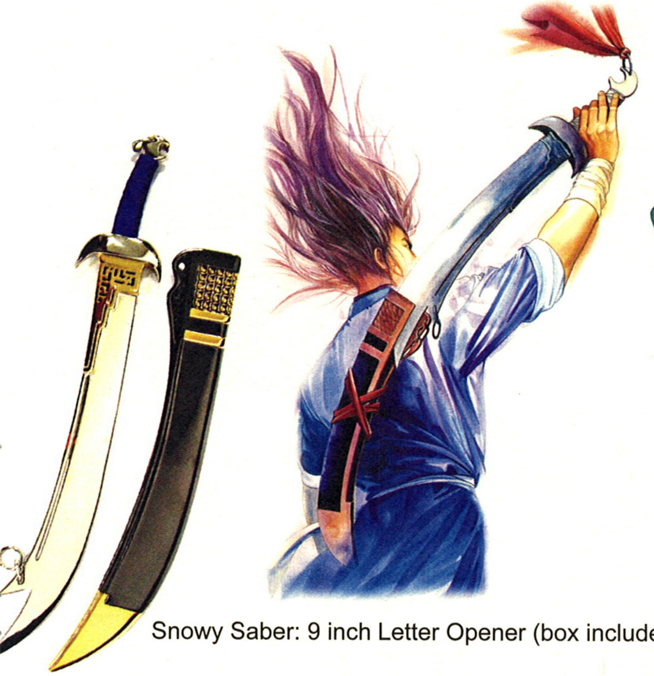
No matter what a company's market research may say, or what may have been said in the press, eveyone understands that Jonesky Limited has had a longstanding problem and that problem was not publishing books on time. Last week I remembered when we came to the decision where we decided to set aside a position for a person to be responsible for supervising the production of each book. After making this agreement, the first book to come out was *Black Panther*, and thanks to eveyone's efforts, *Black Panther* was printed as scheduled on the original due date. Also, *Hero without Tears* met its scheduled publishing date with no delays. Yet still, from that day forward, my head rests heavy on my shoulders. Naturally we cannot set bad examples, and I feel very strongly that at this present time, Jonesky Limited should not be experiencing these problems. Thankfully we have met success in tackling these problems, and this is the result of everyone's efforts. So many thanks are due to everyone in the company for their hard work, and I only hope that we can continue to meet with the same excellent results in the future.

N4
PUBLISH ON TIME

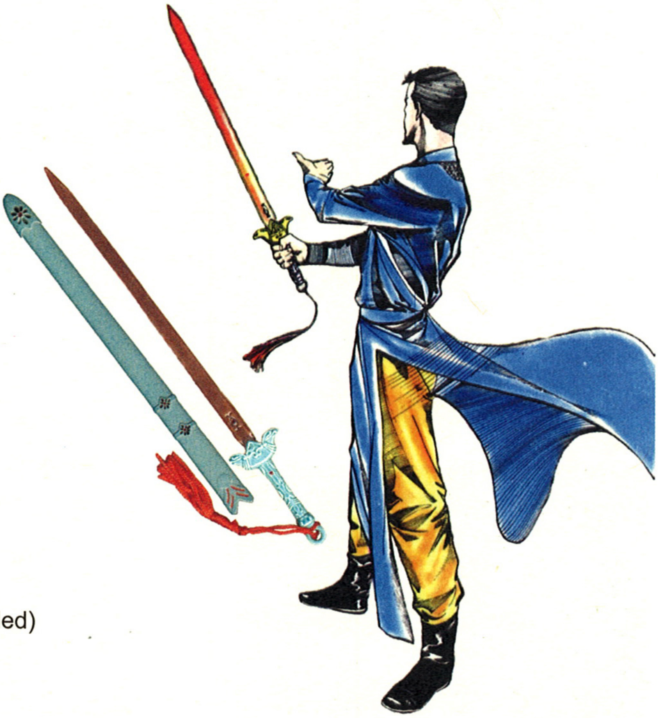


STORM 風雲 RIDERS

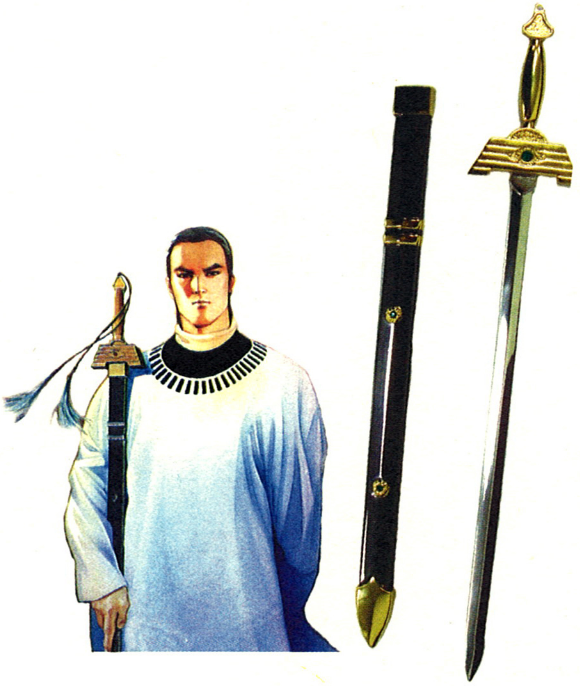
Merchandise



Snowy Saber: 9 inch Letter Opener (box included)



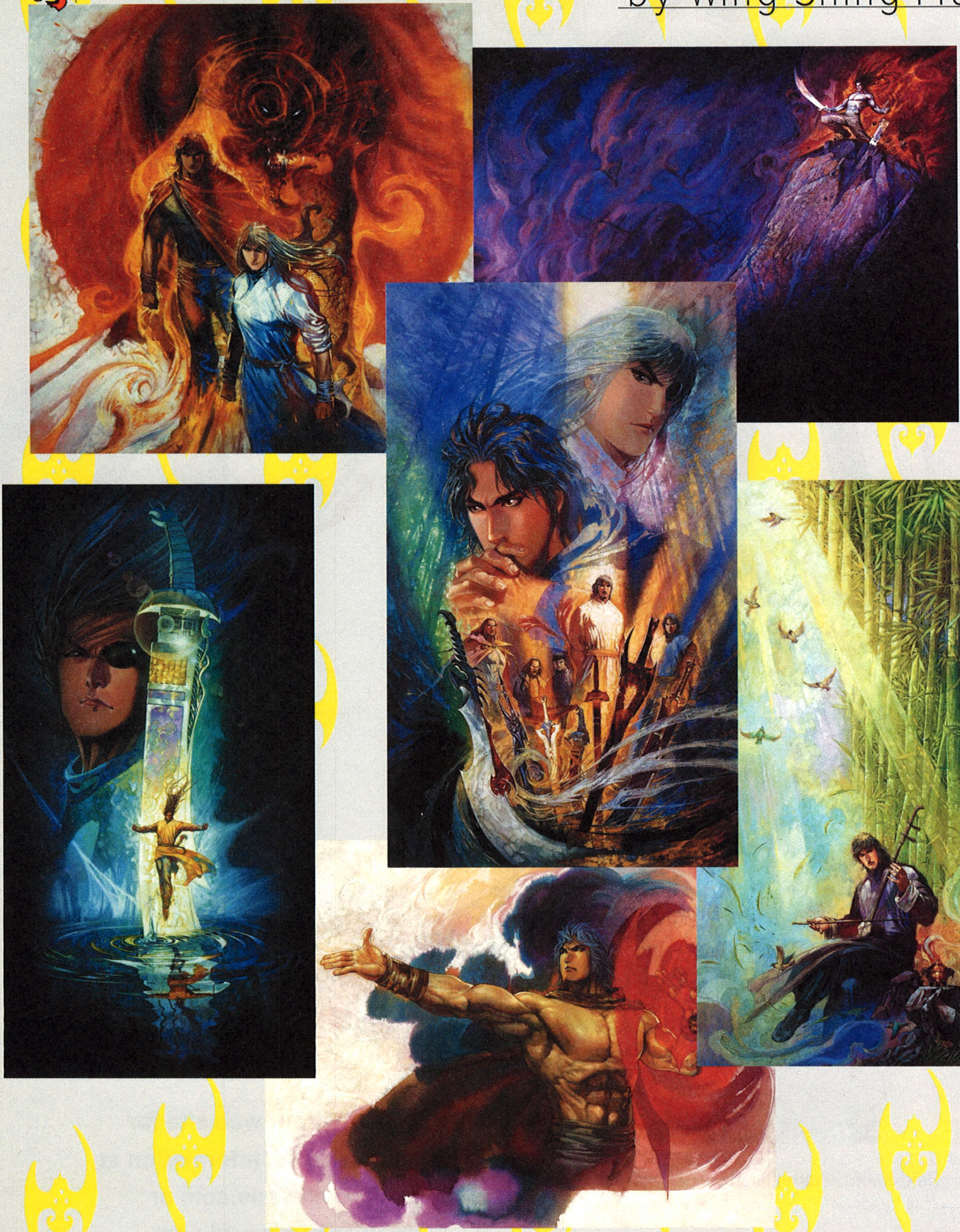
Flame Kylin Sword: 5.5 inch Letter Opener



Hero Sword: 9 inch Letter Opener (box included)

STORM RIDERS

by Wing Shing Ma

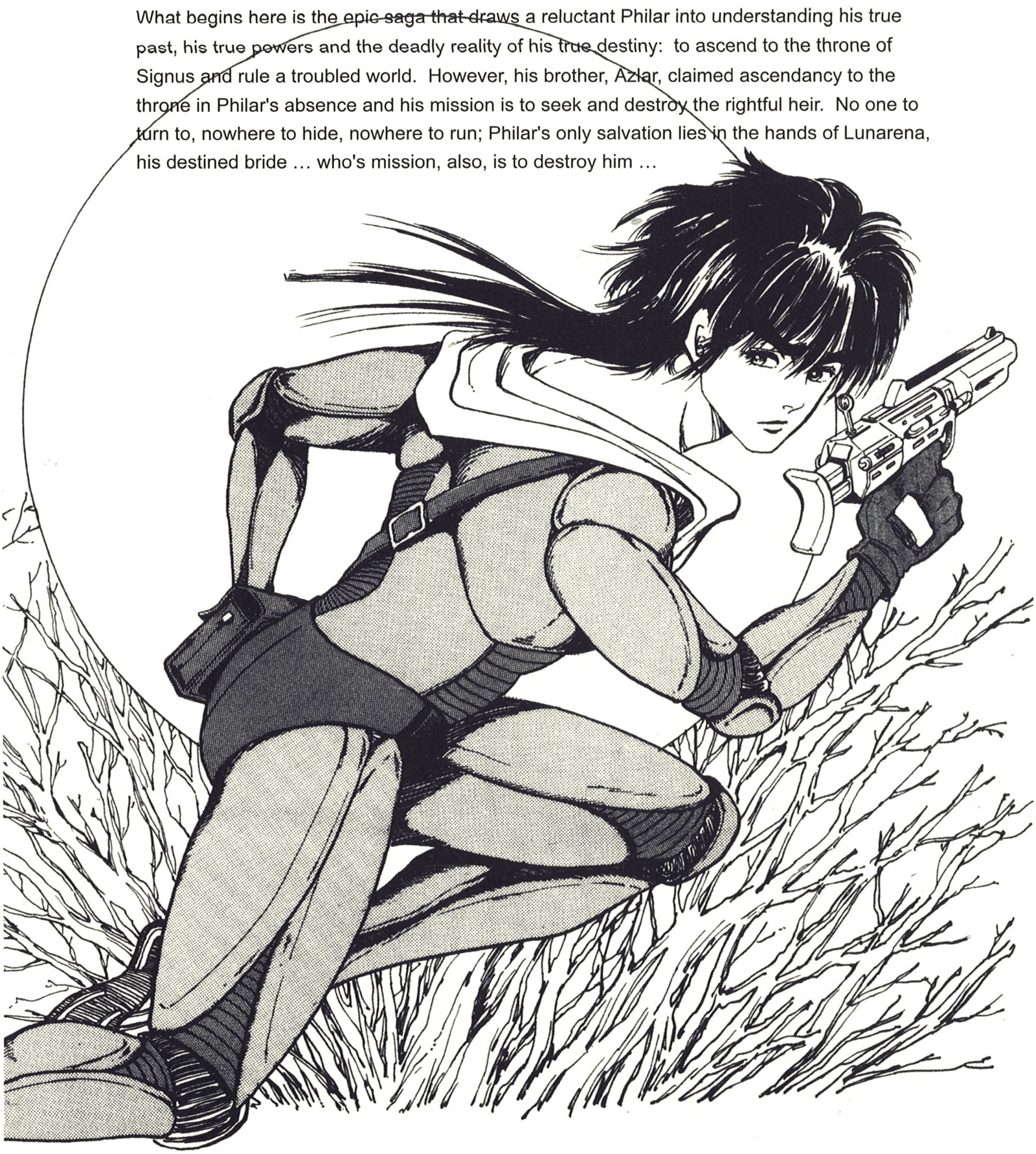


Redmoon

By: Mina Hwang

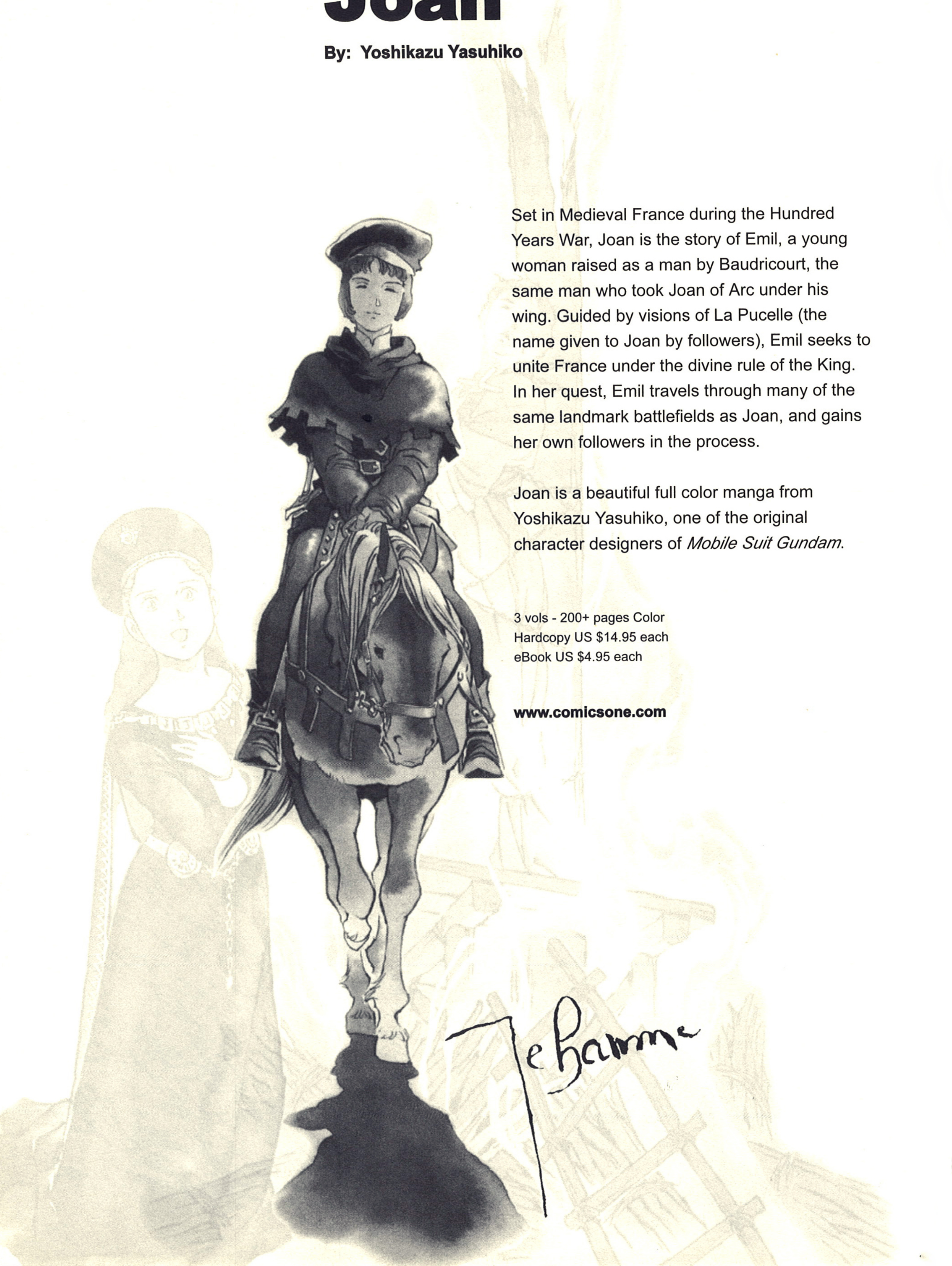
Philar's your average high school student who loves racking up high scores on his favorite video game after school. WHAM! SMACK! BANG! are the unfortunate sounds Philar hears as gangsters decide to score high points on him! For some inexplicable reason, he decides to stand his ground and is imbued with a supernatural force that allows him an easy victory. And from deep within him arose a great power …

What begins here is the epic saga that draws a reluctant Philar into understanding his true past, his true powers and the deadly reality of his true destiny: to ascend to the throne of Signus and rule a troubled world. However, his brother, Azlar, claimed ascendancy to the throne in Philar's absence and his mission is to seek and destroy the rightful heir. No one to turn to, nowhere to hide, nowhere to run; Philar's only salvation lies in the hands of Lunarena, his destined bride … who's mission, also, is to destroy him …



Joan

By: Yoshikazu Yasuhiko



Set in Medieval France during the Hundred Years War, Joan is the story of Emil, a young woman raised as a man by Baudricourt, the same man who took Joan of Arc under his wing. Guided by visions of La Pucelle (the name given to Joan by followers), Emil seeks to unite France under the divine rule of the King. In her quest, Emil travels through many of the same landmark battlefields as Joan, and gains her own followers in the process.

Joan is a beautiful full color manga from Yoshikazu Yasuhiko, one of the original character designers of *Mobile Suit Gundam*.

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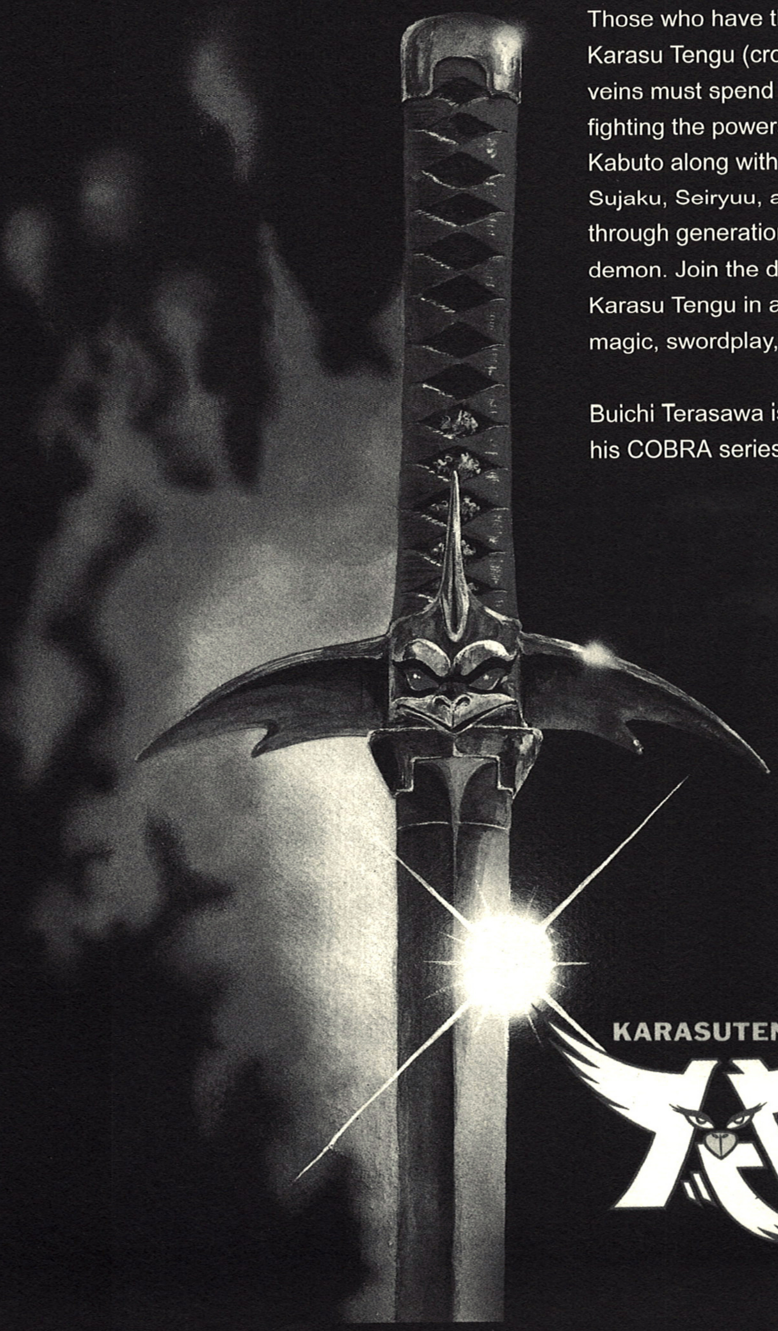
Kabuto

By: Buichi Terasawa



Those who have the blood of the Karasu Tengu (crow goblin) in their veins must spend their entire lives fighting the powers of darkness. Kabuto along with four gods Genbu, Sujaku, Seiryuu, and Byakko, battle through generations with an evil demon. Join the descendants of the Karasu Tengu in an exciting mix of magic, swordplay, and epic fantasy.

Buichi Terasawa is most recognized for his COBRA series

KARASUTENGU

Tomie

By: Junji Ito

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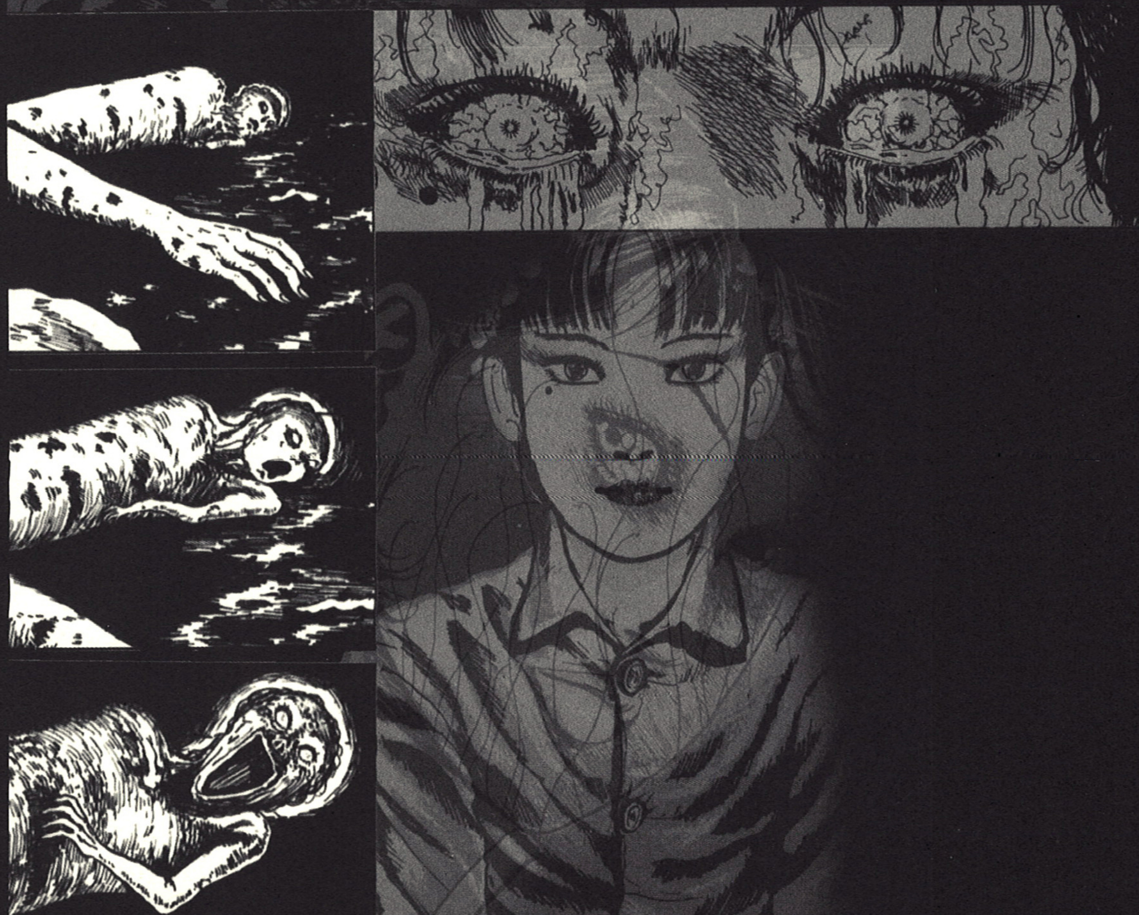

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By: Junji Ito

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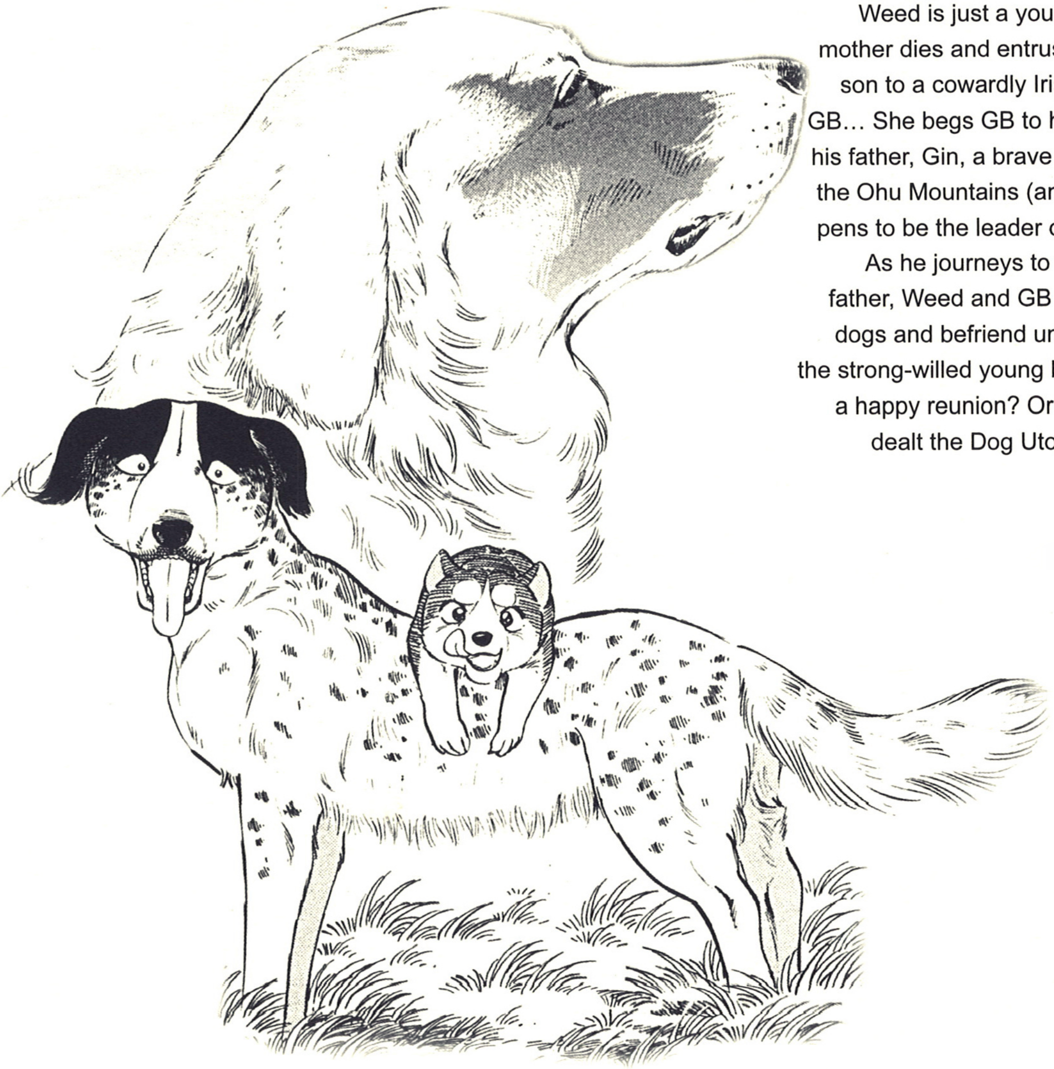
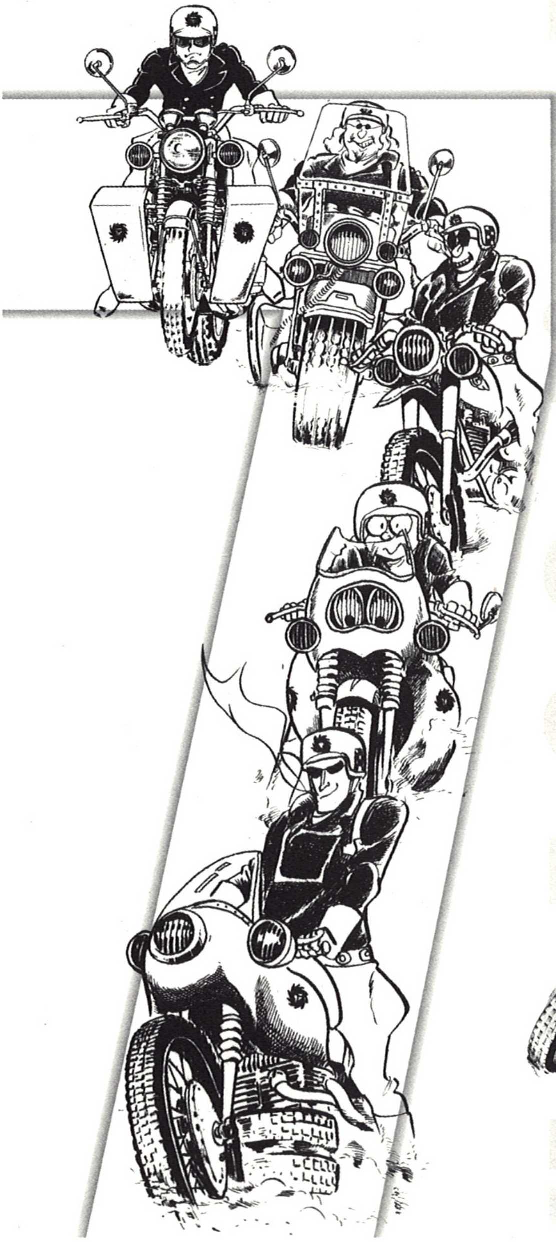


WILD 7

By: Mikiya Mochizuki



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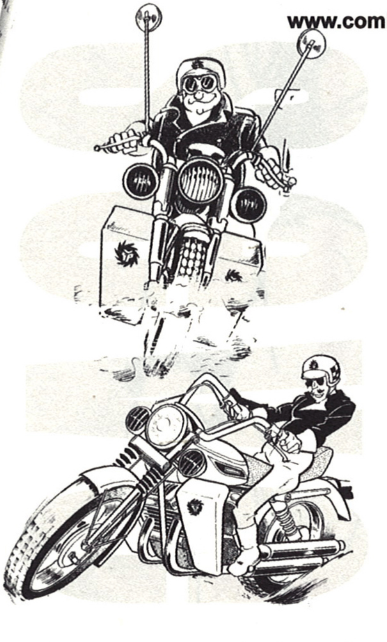

KAZAN

By: Gaku Miyao

Kazan is the last surviving member of a nomad tribe known as The Red Sand. When his village is wiped out by a vicious Water Demon and his best friend Elsie is kidnapped, Kazan begins a journey of discovery that will span 10 years! Befriending a water woman, a cranky old lady, and a bizarre white Eagle, Kazan sets out for the legendary land of Goldene. Get ready for an action-packed ride through the desert as nomads, assassins, slave traders, thieves, and even giant centipedes cross paths with the young hero and his sharp-edged knife…

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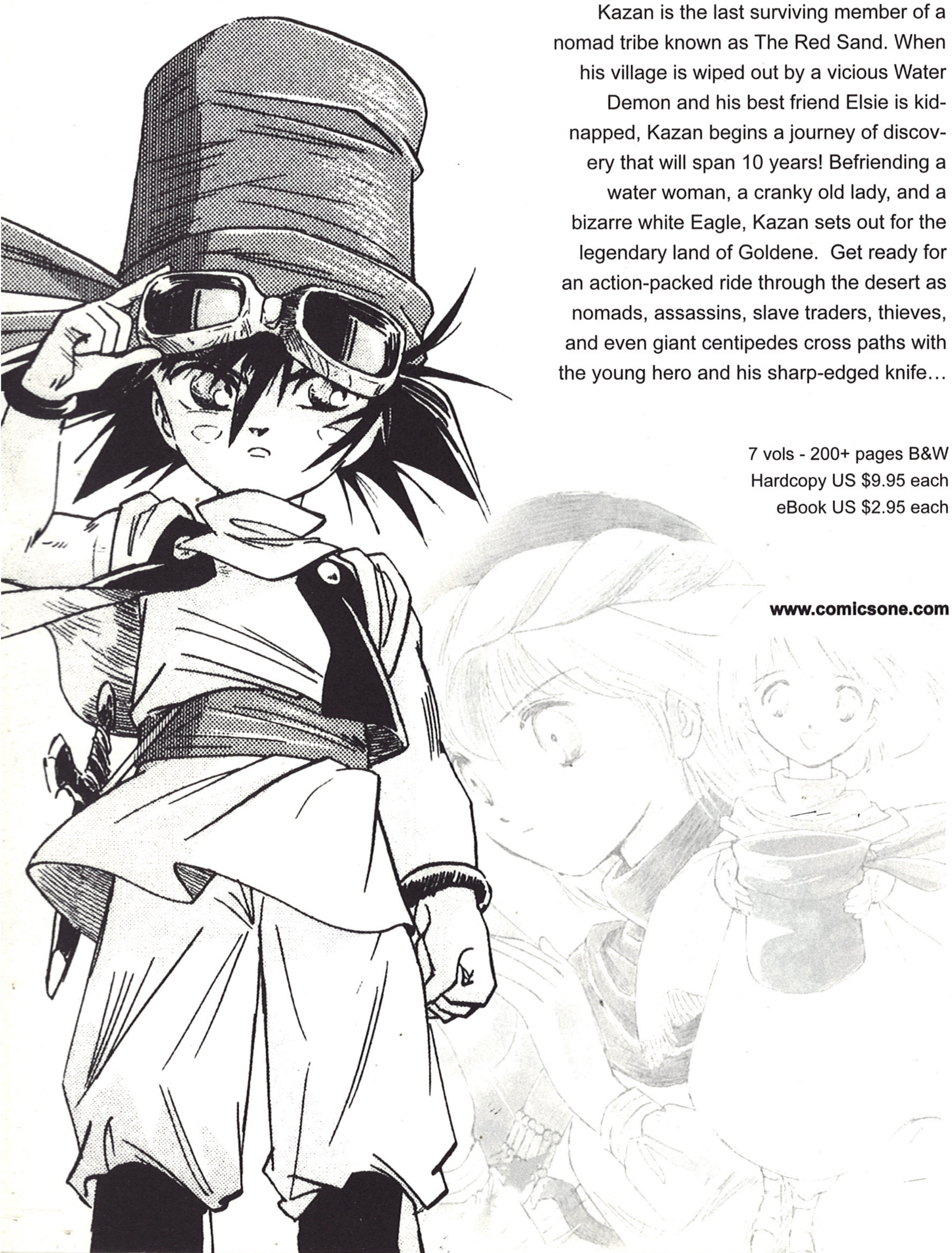

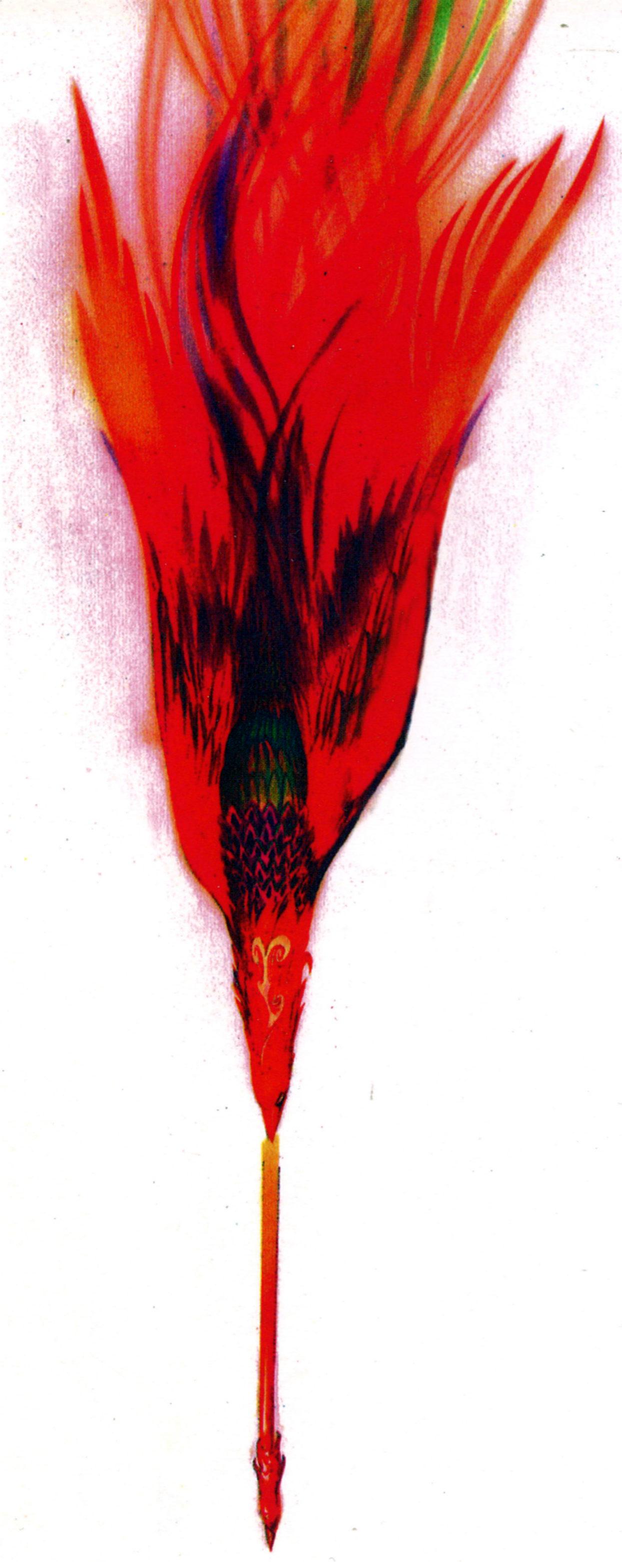

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